

Season's Greetings to the Blues By Mark Toft

I take this opportunity to wish all our readers and their families the very best for the festive season.

I must thank all the contributors in our little magazine which has grown to be a great medium for all umpires in this great country of ours.



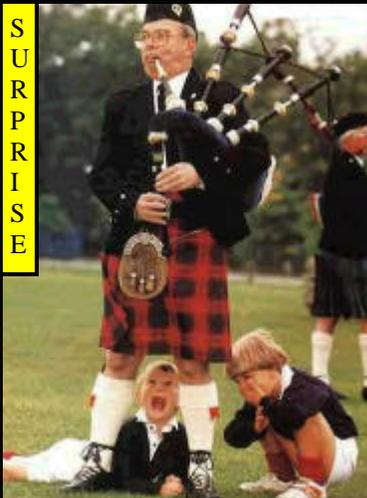
It must be remembered that your contributions are the key to the success of Blue's News On-line, so keep them coming.



It is anticipated that the December issue of BNOL will be published late into December, so that means the contributions deadline moves forward to December 14.

To all those umpires attending National this year, good luck, especially those umpires who have been named as candidates a very special mention. Just remember it is the performances you put in which gained you a nomination, so go out and enjoy the experience and have some fun doing it.

I hope to catch up with many of you in Hobart, Sydney, Brisbane and Darwin. Merry Christmas.



SURPRISE

JOKE OF THE MONTH

Hello, is this the police??? "Yes it is. What do you want?"

"I'm calling to report about my neighbour, Tony. He's hiding cocaine inside his firewood!"
"Thank you very much for the call, sir."

The next day, the police officers descended on Tony's house. They searched the house and then proceeded to the shed where the firewood was kept.

Using axes, they busted open every piece of wood but found no cocaine. They swore at Tony and left.

The phone then rang at Tony's house. Hey, Tony! Did the cops come?" " Yeah!"

"Did they chop your firewood?" "Yep."
"Happy Birthday, mate".

OLYMPIC QUALIFIERS DOWN UNDER

The hectic pace is the norm, looking ahead to the ISF's Events Calendar for 2003. Recently the dates were announced for the three Olympic qualifiers. The year actually begins with two other qualifiers, as those for both the Oceania and Africa regions for the ISF VII Junior Women's World Championship take place in January. (The one for the Americas takes place next month.) That event's participants are 19-and-under. For those 16-and-under, the ISF's II Junior Girls' World Cup plays in July at the Federation's world headquarters/Plant City Stadium complex. More details about each of these events can be found on www.internationalsoftball.com, both on the homepage and on the Events page, which has the full 2003 (and 2004) calendar.

Margo's
Memo



GREAT NEWS

ISF have advised "MOI" that I have been appointed as the UIC for the Olympic qualifier in March, between New Zealand and Australia, in Sydney. A very surprising decision when all is said and done given that I have been sent to two other countries in the past where the qualifiers have been held. I am pretty chuffed at the news I can tell you.

What in this issue of BNOL

- Olympic Qualifiers in Sydney
- Tips on how to be a better umpire
- Another story on the IOC decision about softball
- When the plate umpire is not in control, who is?
- Queensland hold forum
- Gladys Phillips dies

- Jokes, Quotes and a Whole lot more

WINNERS

TAKE CHANCES. Like everyone else, they fear failing but they refuse to let fear control them.

FALL, BUT THEY DON'T STAY DOWN. They stubbornly refuse to let a fall keep them from climbing.

ARE FLEXIBVLE. They realise there is more than one way and are willing to try others.

LET'S GO FOR STUPID:

A lady was picking through the frozen turkeys at the grocery store, but couldn't find one big enough for her family. She asked a stock boy, "Do these turkeys get any bigger?" The stock boy replied, "No ma'am, they're dead."

CAUGHT FOR SPEEDING:

The cop got out of his car and the kid, that was stopped for speeding, rolled down his window. "I've been waiting for you all day," the cop said. The kid replied, "Yeah, well I got here as fast as I could." When the cop finally stopped laughing, he sent the kid on his way without a ticket.

STUCK UNDER A BRIDGE:

A truck driver was driving along on the freeway. A sign comes up that reads "low bridge ahead." Before he knows it the bridge is right ahead of him and he gets stuck under the bridge. Cars are backed up for miles. Finally, a police car comes up. The cop gets out of his car and walks around to the truck driver, puts his hands on his hips and says, "Got stuck, huh?" The truck driver says, "No, I was delivering this bridge and ran out of gas."

DRUNK?

The drunken wino was stumbling down the street with one foot on the curb and one foot in the gutter. A cop pulled up and said, "I've got to take you in, sir. You're obviously drunk". The wasted wino asked, "Ociffer, are ya absolutely sure I'm drunk?" "Yeah, buddy, I'm sure," said the copper. "Let's go." Obviously relieved, the wino said "That's a relief - I thought I was a cripple."

TOO LATE:

The man was in no shape to drive, so he wisely left his car parked and walked home. As he was walking unsteadily along, he was stopped by a policeman. "What are you doing out here at 2 A.M.?" asked the officer. "I'm going to a lecture." The man said. "And who is going to give a lecture at this hour?" the cop asked. "My wife," said the man.

GLADYS PHILLIPS DIES

It is with sadness that I advise of the passing of Gladys Phillips, a former Victorian & Australian Softball Captain who passed away on Sunday November 24.

Gladys was captain of the first Australian Women s World Championship Softball team in 1965, who were also the eventual winners.

Gladys also excelled at cricket and has the unique honour of captaining the Australian Women s Cricket team as well as the Australian Women s Softball team.

Neil Dalrymple Chief Executive



Big Al's comment: This month's column does not have a "Rules Flavour", but is written with a view to assisting the reader in becoming a better umpire.

I recently came across the following article that was written some 15 years ago and it shows there is more to being an official than just being on the field. We can all learn from it, as the ideals are just as relevant in today's umpiring environment as they were then.

While the following 10 tips ignore many facets of umpiring, they provide a blueprint for success in your personal umpiring endeavours. Certainly I don't expect you to endorse the list exactly as is, but I do hope it will encourage you to develop your own set of 10.

Take the time to read, digest and endeavour to put the tips into practice. Even applying one of the tips that is not currently in your repertoire will make you a better umpire.

Ten Tips To Make You A Better Umpire - an article written by Anthony Carter.

1. BE A PEOPLE PERSON.

In order to succeed, excellent interpersonal-relationship skills are imperative; I place those skills on top of the list. A solid foundation within those principles will provide a substantial framework on which to build. Without those skills, your other ones will be hanging on a hollow framework indeed.

2. ENSURE OPPONENTS PLAY THE GAME.

That one's hard to control at times. What I basically mean is don't allow people to embarrass others. That may occur in the form of derogatory comments, purposely making errors to mock other players or to extend the game when a run rule is imminent. Name calling and antics aimed at belittling others should not be tolerated.

3. BE AN AMBASSADOR.

An umpire is often perceived as being bigger than life, an extension of the league in which he works or the association of which he is a member. When you treat people unfairly, they tend to lump everyone into one category: "All umpires are horrible" or "Billy Joe's Softball World umpires are terrible." You are a working ambassador for softball, your profession, your local and state associations and the complex at which you umpire.

.....Continued Page 3 & 4

.....From Page 2

4. BE HUMBLE.

Too often umpires take on haughty characteristics that have no place on the softball field. An old adage says a lot: "You're only as good as your next call." The truly haughty, in return, will not humble themselves even when they know they've erred. Instead, they often eject players or coaches rather than admitting to themselves that they made mistakes. Ejection allows that type of umpire to rationalise that the call should have gone that way anyhow.

You'll note so far that I've placed emphasis on people skills. As I work with veteran umpires I see those who have the consummate technical skills, but aren't successful because they just can't get along with people.

5. PARTICIPATE IN CLINICS.

I said participate in clinics, not just attend them. Each person has something to contribute, even if it's something strictly from a personal perspective and neither right nor wrong. It's important to take the time to prepare questions and discussion topics for use during the clinic.

6. UNDERSTAND THE RULES.

It's not enough to know the rules; you must understand them as well. Learn how the rules apply to the game and the intent behind each rule's adoption; and know how each is to be interpreted (some interpretations contradict what is written in black & white). Understand the rules well enough so you don't let a team gain an unfair advantage by using the written word for their gain.

7. TEACH OTHERS.

I'm not only referring to fellow umpires, but also to players and coaches. I'm fortunate that I get to travel quite a bit. When I see new techniques I try to share them. Even if I don't adopt a particular technique, I think it's sound practice to share new information with others. Often we teach fellow umpires just by doing; unfortunately, the doing is many times an exhibition of the wrong way.

Sharing with players and coaches rule interpretations and umpire responsibilities helps them gain more insights into the game and how we work it, which should ease your job. I always try to explain after the game a situation or interpretation. Seldom have I encountered a negative attitude when I've done that fully.

My standing line, with tongue partially in cheek, is: "Not only do you get exciting softball for your money, but for no extra charge you get an excellent education in the rules."

8. ALWAYS STRIVE FOR IMPROVEMENT.

Never be satisfied with your skill level. So many umpires aspire to certain levels and calibres, yet they stop improving once they attain their goals even though they may only have met minimum standards at those levels.

It's been said a person has a better chance of winning a lottery than calling a perfect

game behind the plate in pro baseball. Fortunately, softball is easier. Yet, even when we feel we might have had the perfect game, I'm confident we could have made some slight improvements.

9. FOSTER CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM.

Once you've made your way up the ladder, peer criticism ceases ... at least to your face. Veterans still need constructive criticism.

I get into some bad habits, which are usually brought to my attention by rookies who'll frankly question why I was doing something a certain way. At times I've had to sheepishly say: "Well, if I was doing it that way, I was wrong."

It's important you listen when criticism is offered. More importantly, you should solicit constructive criticism.

10. KNOW WHEN TO REST.

Among the most unprofessional characteristics I've seen is when an umpire tries to work through a burnout phase rather than resting through it.

When you're at home getting ready and you get the feeling of, "Man, I don't want to go to the ballpark tonight," your mind is telling you something important. Too bad most umpires don't listen to themselves. Why? Because we're flattered someone has called us and we begin to feel the league can't continue unless we're there.

Face it: You aren't doing yourself, the players, your complex or the profession any favours by continuing to work when you've reached the burnout stage. I do, however, recommend no more than two days of work per week until you've recouped your mental faculties.

As I said at the outset, whatever items make your list dedicate yourself to them.

UMPIRE WEB SITES - HAVE A LOOK

Hi everyone here are a couple of great sites to visit.

www.renest.freeler.nl European Softball Federation

www.cactusumpires.com Cactus Umpires Arizona

Have fun looking. Heaps of info for the umpire. One site has had the help of Merle Butler to set up.

Jacqui Davies—New Zealand

QUOTE of the DAY

TEAMWORK—Teamwork means giving everyone a lift!

Hi All
My name is Logan I was born on Monday 18th November 2002 at 2:00am just under 3 weeks early.

I weigh in at 7lb 13oz and am 20 inches long. Please find attached my 1st baby picture.

I am the 4th grandchild of Rosie and Neville Lawrance

Logan Elliott Thompson



Story in Telegraph UK

Rogge faces struggle for control with IOC's rank and file

By David Miller (*Filed: 17/11/2002*)

Who controls the Olympic Games? The extraordinary session of the International Olympic Committee, in Mexico City on Nov 28-29, is a watershed for the rank and file members in an organisation increasingly governed by their president and executive board.

There are two main issues on the agenda: first, and central to the IOC's function, is the intention of Dr Jacques Rogge, the president, to maintain the ban on visiting bidding cities prior to a host-city election and second, a proposal by the Programme Commission to remove baseball, modern pentathlon and softball and introduce rugby and golf by 2012.

The stated objective of Rogge, Olympic sailor and former rugby international from Belgium, is to modernise the Games, to include contemporary widely-practised sports and to streamline the IOC's operation by reducing expenditure and tightening a proliferating administrative network.

The latter includes continuation of the prohibition on city visits in the wake of the Salt Lake voting scandal, introduced by Rogge's predecessor Juan Antonio Samaranch following the crisis of 1999 that might have killed the IOC and the Games.

Yet indications are that he and the executive board will encounter serious resistance from the floor regarding the travel ban, and that traditional conservatism will spring to the defence of the three threatened sports.

During Samaranch's 21-year presidency, there was an expansion of IOC mem-

bership - with more representatives from the individual federations of international sports and from national Olympic committees and athletes - but also an increasingly executive style of government.

There are currently 128 members and the rank and file will be wanting to prove in Mexico that their opinions, and their voices, still count.

The difference between Samaranch, the arch-politician, and Rogge is that the former, with a cultivated information grapevine, invariably knew in advance how any vote would go.

If defeat looked possible, he would back off and bide his time. Rogge, benign in his ambitions while dedicated to open government, is undoubtedly taking a chance. On the new sports, he is characteristically diplomatic. "If support is not sufficient, then we'll wait until another time," he says.

The travel-ban issue is complex. Next year, the IOC must vote on the winter Games hosts for 2010. How, protesters reasonably argue, can they decide between, say, Vancouver, Salzburg and Pyong Chang (North Korea), if they have not witnessed at first hand the comparative environmental factors? Why should their freedom, as elected, honest officials, be curtailed by the previous unscrupulous conduct of a minority?

Against that is the fact that for other major sports events, host cities are decided by executive committees (FIFA, IAAF etc) and that the now incongruous size of the IOC involves elephantine travel arrangements and costs even if they were to be organised on a demeaning "school-bus outing" principle.

Japan's Chiharu Igaya, an executive board member, is in a delicate situation as a member also of the Ethics Commission: to uphold political correctness and also members' individual pride in their own integrity.

Igaya considers the ban will probably remain. Also in a cleft stick is Denis Oswald of Switzerland, former Olympic oarsman and chairman of the Co-ordination Commission for Athens 2004.

As chairman of the Association of Summer Olympic International Federations (ASOIF), it is his responsibility to uphold the interests of the individual summer sports.

Modern pentathlon could perish should it lose its income from the Games. Yet Oswald admits: "We (ASOIF) have to accept that the IOC have the right to review the programme."

TOP END BLUES HIT THE CENTRE!

Six umpires from the "Top End" journeyed to Alice Springs for the Alice Masters held from 19 –26 October. Local "Blues" and some from South Australia joined them. Making the trip from Darwin were Derek Quong, David Binder (via the World's Masters), Ian & Margaret Lee, Leah Schwartz and Yvonne Newman who was also playing. "Blues" from Alice were Cathie Allen and part timers Angie Pet-tijohn, and Steve Trindle.

Geoff Bell from Baseball and Kerry Chin and Chris Heron from Darwin also helped out. Coming from South Australia were Graham Gamboldt, Brian Godfrey and Marianne Smith. Injuries prevented Ian from umpiring (a dog's tale) and Leah's knee injury flared up again after the first day.

However, other players volunteered and all games were well managed. We had two major injuries within two minutes of each other but calm was kept and the injuries well managed.

The teams all commented on the standard of the umpiring and were very appreciative of the fact that they did not have to provide umpires from their teams. It was well noted that although the umpires enjoyed many social activities during the evenings (especially around the pool), all umpires were ready to walk onto the diamonds by 8:30 a.m. each day.



The Top End travellers arrived safely back enjoying a night's stop over each way at Tennant Creek enjoying the hospitality of Jenny Kitching affectionately known as "Kitch". Now we are into the "Wet Season" competition with the men playing. A Christmas get together is planned for December before we all have a break.

As Ian & I will be driving down to Adelaide for Christmas, May I take this opportunity to wish all fellow "blues" throughout Australia "A Happy Festive Season" and may Santa find his way to your house!!

Marg Lee - Northern Territory State Director of Umpiring

2002 NSW Softball Umpires Association AGM

The 2003 NSWSUA Executive

State Umpire In Chief - Darrell Shephard

Deputy Umpire In Chief - Bruce McCahon

Secretary - Sue Itzstein

Treasurer - Steven Morgan

Training Co-Ordinator - Graham Boyle

State League Co-Ordinator - Andrew Rindfleish

Information Co-Ordinator - Scott Rindfleish

Special Events Co-Ordinator - Greg Baker

The 2002 NSWSUA Annual Awards

The Annual Awards were presented at the Annual Presentation Dinner, which followed the AGM . We all had a great time with lots of jokes, many stories, some emotional presentations and equally emotional acceptance speeches, a great dinner and a perfect opportunity for umpires of NSW to celebrate in the successes and good times of 2002. And the awards were presented to ...

Director's Award for Services to Umpiring - SCOTT RINDFLEISH

`Andrew Rindfleish` Umpire of the Year - ANDREW RINDFLEISH

Encouragement Award - HOWARD WATT

Affiliate Award for Umpire Development - HORNSBY SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

Individual Award for Umpire Development - JOHN WALKER

Scott Rindfleish - NSWSUA Information Coordinator

How do I become an Accredited Softball Umpire?

Most umpires, before being accredited, have umpired games for their local association or club. This gives you the chance to determine if you like umpiring and to gain experience but is not a prerequisite.

There are 8 levels in the Australian Umpiring system:

Level 1 does not require a practical exam to be undertaken – it is awarded when a 50% theory pass mark has been attained and you have shown you understand basic umpire mechanics and conduct

Levels 2 – 4 require you to sit the ASF exam and pass a practical assessment at either local or state competitions / tournaments

Levels 5 – 6 require you sit to the ASF exam and pass a practical assessment at national tournaments

Levels 7 – 8 are international accreditations and are awarded by ASF after gaining ISF Certification

Each level requires that you have a certain number of years experience and a pass mark in the theory exam for the level you wish to attempt (sequentially). The following table lists the experience and pass mark for each level.

The Australian Umpires Theory Exam format is multiple choice and is sat by all umpires around Australia on the last Monday in May. Umpires wanting to attain their Level 1 are able to sit the Basic Paper, which is a modified form of the standard paper.

It is far less intimidating for the beginner umpire and allows you to ease into the programme. The Basic Paper may be sat at any time of the year *except* one month either side of the date the standard paper is sat.

Why would I want to become an Accredited Softball Umpire?

There are many reasons people decide to become an umpire. Some are helping out their club (or are forced to!) and others like the social interaction and involvement. Becoming an *accredited* umpire tells the world that you have attained a recognised level of competence. You are able to wear the Softball Australia Umpires patch with pride, knowing you have earned it.

Here are some of the positives for becoming an umpire:

- If you are a player or coach, becoming an umpire can be very handy in terms of understanding the rules and knowing the umpires' crew signals (and point of view!)
- An umpire's career can last for decades
- Your involvement in the sport does not have to end when your playing days are over

- Umpiring gives you the best seat in the house – and they don't charge you to get in!
- Opportunity to travel nationally and internationally
- You are challenged in many ways – and to succeed is personally rewarding
- Many people enjoy being able to apply the correct rule for a given situation
- You deal with many different types of people and this can be useful in business situations
- The friends you make can last a lifetime !

What qualities make a 'good' umpire?

There are no "rules" or "guidelines" that define the type of person or personality that makes for a good umpire. There is, however, a Code of Conduct which defines how an umpire should conduct themselves. An abridged version of the code is listed below:

1. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every human being regardless of age, gender, ethnic origin, religion or ability
2. Be professional in your appearance and manner and accept responsibility for all actions taken.
3. Make a commitment to providing quality service to umpiring, your State / Territory and ASF, by seeking continual improvement of your umpiring knowledge and skill through study, performance appraisal and regular updating of competencies
4. Operate within the rules and spirit of Softball
5. Refrain from any form of personal abuse towards athletes
6. Refrain from any form of sexual harassment
7. Place the safety and welfare of the participants above all else
8. Be impartial
9. Value the individual in sport
10. Avoid any situation which may lead to a conflict of interest
11. Show concern and caution towards sick and injured athletes
12. Encourage inclusivity and access to all areas of umpiring
13. Be a positive role model for Softball and umpiring

For a full version of the Code of Conduct, visit the National Umpire Program's Resource Library.

Where do I go from here?

Contact your State Director of Umpiring or Umpiring Committee, if you would like more information on becoming an umpire. Alternatively, your local competition will generally have accredited umpires ("blues") officiating and you can speak to one of them before or after a game.

(This article was taken from the Western Australia Softball Umpires Resource Library)

WHEN THE PLATE UMPIRE IS NOT IN CONTROL, WHO IS?

The Australian Defence Force (ADF) National Fast pitch Championships were recently held in Richmond (NSW). The competition was fierce between the ADF state teams culminating in the selection of the male and female National teams to compete in Tests against their New Zealand Air Force counterparts.

The extreme weather conditions were difficult for players and umpires alike. A big plus however was the valuable Plate and Base experience I gained throughout the period working with numerous other umpires. I soon realised that there is no substitute for experience, a point that was particularly highlighted by an incident that occurred in the last round robin match.

The matter has stuck in my mind and the subsequent chain of events highlighted to me the need for umpires to work as a team. Indeed, I was able to draw on the experience only one day later in the Women's National final. I hope the following account may be of some benefit to fellow umpires of any level.

It was the third day of competition and so far it had been hot, hot, hot. Game start times had been brought forward to help cope with the heat. I had just finished my third straight game for the day and I would have a lunch break before my next game. I couldn't believe my luck, a cool change had just swept through and my final Plate duty would be played in the mid 20s in lieu of the high 30s. It must be my day.

The game started well, there was the usual light hearted banter from the catchers and crowd about strike zones etc and the early innings were level. With one out the batter had a base hit. I moved around the catcher to watch the play at first when all of a sudden I had this strange pain sensation in my right jaw.

The batter-runner was clearly safe, no other play was being made so why was my jaw so painful. I never saw or heard the bat hit me but after a few seconds I guessed that is what must have happened. The catcher queried if I would call an out for the thrown bat. However, as I couldn't make full sense of what had just happened I said no as it must have been my fault for being in the wrong position (error).

The next batter was in the box and after a few pitches I noticed my counter read 1 and 1 (error). I was obviously calling strikes and balls but wasn't recording all of them. For some reason the base umpire did not query why I was no longer signalling the count on my fingers. I thought something was wrong but I couldn't figure out what it was and I never considered to ask anyone for help (error).

The batter asked for the count and seemed happy when I replied 1 and 1. The next pitch was a dropped strike and both the batter and catcher were very relaxed that no play was being made. I called strike and thinking that it was "Strike 2" I was staggered to hear members of the fielding team screaming at the catcher to tag the batter. The batter didn't move and the catcher picked the ball up but did nothing.

The screaming continued and all I could think was that this raucous noise is hurting my growing headache. Eventually the catcher tagged the batter just to quieten down the other fielders. The infielders surrounded me claiming that this was strike 3 and the batter was out.

I checked with the scorer who confirmed that it was indeed strike 3. It must have been my fault that the batter had received the wrong count and I felt sick to the stomach when I decided to

call him out using the scorer's count.

After a few complaints from the offensive and defensive coaches it was agreed that the out would stand. The next batter was out from a simple play, either a straightforward catch or out at first. I still can't remember which but I know I was pleased that I could have a break for a moment.

The players milled and shuffled as they changed positions for the new innings. I now noticed that I had "1 out" on my counter. I slowly went over to the scorer to confirm that it was only "1 out" when the scorer confirmed that we were still intact in the middle of a change of innings.

Finally it dawned on me that I had been really concussed and that I had had little idea of what was going on around me for the last 10-15 minutes. I immediately advised the base umpire and both coaches as to what effect being hit by the bat had had on me. Finally the tension with both sides was alleviated as they fully sympathised with what had occurred. I was still suffering to various degrees for the remainder of the match and a couple of times I had to be corrected by the batter or catcher as to the count. The game concluded in due course and everyone seemed happy.

After the match I thought to myself how did I let myself get into such a situation of confusion? I have been physically hurt before in games but I had never experienced being concussed. I felt really bad that I did not fully manage the game for a period, even though it was quite unintentional and was beyond my control for a short time.

The two major lessons I took away from this were:

- a. If something seems wrong then it probably is. Call TIME and check with the other umpire or scorer as necessary and sort the situation out before it becomes a major problem, and
- b. The base umpire can also help to manage the game. If the plate umpire is no longer signalling as normal etc, then call TIME and check if something is wrong. The umpires need to work together as a team.

The following day I was plate umpire for the women's national final. After a couple of innings I was starting to suffer the effects of the previous day's injury. Following an extended case of chasing the runner I realised that I hadn't placed anything on my counter.

I couldn't remember if it was a strike or a ball so I signalled to the base umpire who gave me a 2 and 1 count. Surely I couldn't have missed so many pitches again. I checked with the scorer and Murphy had struck. She had missed the pitch and had no count at all. At least I now knew that only one pitch had been thrown.

After a short discussion with the batter it was confirmed that it was Strike 1. I promptly signalled the count to all and sundry with one finger on the right hand and the game continued without further incident.

Even though I had made the error of not having the count, I was pleased that I had learned from experience to stop, ask and resolve the matter before it led to an unprofessional incident.

Rob Miles - A.C.T.

Queensland Umpires Forum - 2002

On the weekend of November 9 and 10 Queensland Softball held their annual District Association Umpire Forum. Umpiring Coordinator from all across the state converged on the Virginia Palms Conference Centre.

Some of the Coordinator traveled several hundred miles by plane and car to get to the forum. Why? This is one of the few opportunities for many to discuss and compare strategies for umpire development and the future of umpiring in Queensland.

On the agenda for the weekend were topics that cover a large range of issues relating to umpiring.

Some of the topic's included:

Umpire Awards

Umpires Database

State Championships

Misconduct Policy - workshop

Calendar of Events - 2003 - 2004

Training Clinics - DA Tours

QSA Umpires Web Site

QSA Strategic Plan - Funding Proposal for Remote Areas

Accreditation

One of the major discussion points for the weekend was the proposal for a Misconduct Policy to be drawn up to be use by District Association around the State.

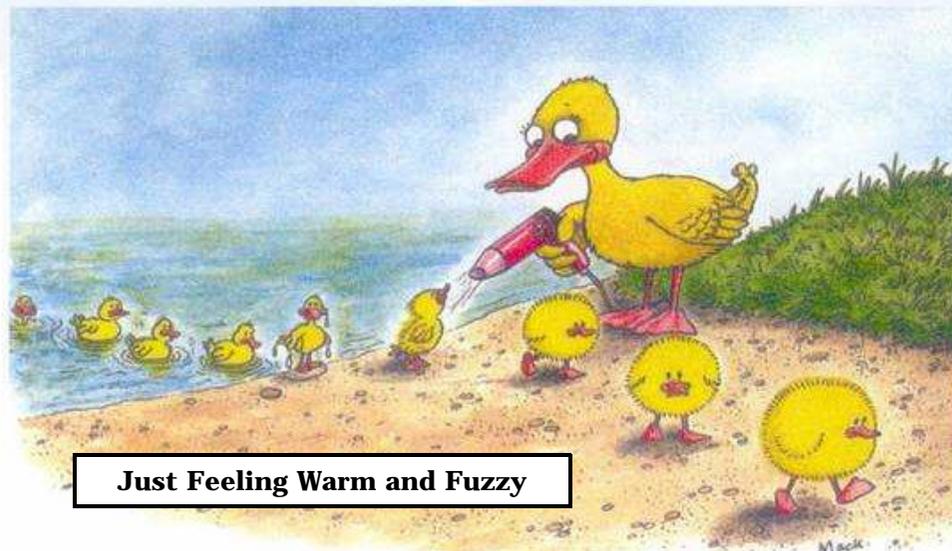
This policy if adopted by all District Association would give support to DA's and their Umpires to reduce the level of abuse and misconduct on the diamond by giving clean penalties.

There would also be provision for these penalties to be recognized by DA's for offences committed in other associations.

The development of this policy is in response to an increased level of abuse of officials in all areas of sport not just umpires and referees. For more information on this subject please contact members of the QSA Umpiring Committee.

TOP TEN THINGS YOU SHOULD NOT SAY TO A POLICE OFFICER

1. I can't reach my license unless you hold my beer.
2. Sorry, Officer, I didn't realize my radar detector wasn't plugged in.
3. Aren't you the guy from the Village People?
4. Hey, you must've been doin' about 125 mph to keep up with me. Good job!
5. Are You Andy or Barney?
6. I thought you had to be in relatively good physical condition to be a police officer.
7. You're not gonna check the trunk, are you?
8. I pay your salary!
9. Gee, Officer! That's terrific. The last officer only gave me a warning, too!
10. Do you know why you pulled me over? Okay, just so one of us does.



Just Feeling Warm and Fuzzy