



September 2013



National UIC's Call

With Tricia Sibraa

I hope you enjoy the September edition of Blues News Online.

Enclosed is a report from UIC - Technical, Leigh Evans covering the statistics and tracking of May's annual Umpiring Examination over recent years. While the outcome of 297 people who sat the exam averaged 74% is a great result, we still need to reflect upon the breakdown the further statistics to identify pathways to improve our program.

Victoria's article from a school umpire is a great reflection of our sport's improvement in grassroots junior umpiring and a personal reflection by writer Merv Larter, whose mother was involved in the same school sports program as a participant some 70 years earlier.

Queensland has kicked off their State Championship season with their Open Women's State Titles held in Caboolture. This championship was highly competitive with 13 teams fielding Australian, New Zealand, interstate and American College players.

Finally, the September edition of "Play by the Rules" is enclosed. This edition includes several articles on equality in sports, "Play by the Rules" launch of their Twitter account and the possible risks of social media within sports.

Looking forward to reading more articles in the coming months as we enter into championship season across country. Wishing you all the best for the coming month and good calling out on the diamonds.

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News Flash!



The first Softball Australia smart phone application, Rules in Pictures, is now available for Android and iOS devices.



The Rules in Pictures app is developed around the current 2010-2013 Rule Book, and offers an easy-to-read format, highlighting some of the rules crucial to our sport.

A quick and easy reference guide during umpire training sessions, or in your own personal study and development of the rules, the Softball Rules in Pictures makes for a useful addition to your smart phone.

Clicking on the above images will take you directly to the store relevant to your platform, so download your copy today!

Technical Report

with Leigh Evans – UIC Technical

In total, 297 umpires sat the 2013 National Rules Exam across the country in May. It was encouraging to see an increase in umpires sitting the exam in the ACT, Queensland and Tasmania. The average exam result across all levels was just over 74 – well done everyone!

Some umpires did not sit the exam in 2013 due to their association NOT ordering papers – a reminder for 2014 to all umpires: be sure to check with your local association that your papers are ordered! We will post reminders about this in the months leading up to May 2014 through BNOL and the umpiring page on the SAL website.

SAL has developed a flexible exam process and allows umpires that have extenuating reasons for not being available on exam night to apply through their State Director of Umpiring for a deferred exam. Umpires can also apply to sit a supplementary exam if they do not achieve the required pass by up to 2 marks. Keep these aspects in mind for 2014, should you fall into one of these categories.

SAL also allows umpires applying for Level 2 accreditation to sit the National Basic Exam, this exam is aimed at a basic, every-day grassroots game level. The ability to allow Level 1 umpires and Level 2 candidates to sit the Basic Exam continues to provide greater flexibility and an easier pathway for umpire development. If you are a Level 1 umpire and found the National Rules Exam tricky, think about this option for 2014!

The National Rules Exam was developed by Leigh Evans, then proof read and edited by Darrell Shephard, Darren Sibraa, Scott Rindfleish and Alan McAuliffe.

This year SAL again used ISF Development Umpires to set the Basic Exam, allowing for the development of each individual umpires' rule knowledge. Darren Sibraa supervised this process and was assisted by Richard Barrow and Alex Turnbull.

On behalf of the NUC and SAL, I would like to thank all umpires involved in the 2013 exam writing process.

Following this report is a summary of the 10 worst answered questions – were these the ones that tripped you up? In an upcoming edition of BNOL, we will have the analysis of these questions, with the correct rule reference and an explanation of why the answer is what it is. Hopefully, this analysis will assist you in your ongoing rule knowledge.

THE TOP 10 QUESTIONS CAUSING MOST DIFFICULTY WERE:

	Level 0-3 Question number	Percentage incorrect	Level 4-8 Question number	Percentage Incorrect	All Levels	Percentage Incorrect
1	Q. 31	75%	Q. 82	64%	Q. 82	68%
2	Q. 17	70%	Q. 12	56%	Q. 30	65%
3	Q. 30	69%	Q. 44	53%	Q. 31	64%
4	Q. 82	69%	Q. 30	52%	Q. 44	63%
5	Q. 74	67%	Q. 59	48%	Q. 17	63%
6	Q. 2	67%	Q. 38	47%	Q. 90	61%
7	Q. 63	67%	Q. 76	42%	Q. 70	60%
8	Q. 90	67%	Q. 90	42%	Q. 63	59%
9	Q. 44	66%	Q. 89	41%	Q. 74	55%
10	Q. 70	66%	Q. 55	41%	Q. 2	57%

Victoria

Narre Warren Shootout 2013

For most of the Victorian Softball Fraternity, September is the time we all start getting our gear out of storage and begin preparing for the fast arriving summer season. September not only brings these preparations but it also brings the first tournament for the year, the Victorian Men's Narre Warren Shootout. This tournament has been running for a few years now and attracts a strong following of men's teams and umpires.

This year the Shootout was held at Casey Association on Sunday 14 September and included four teams from across Melbourne and was played under the Canberra Skins Rule. The quality of the games was extremely high with plenty of home runs and action across the games, which kept the umpiring crew on their toes.

The crew, which this year included Richard Dodds (TCU), Dave Addlem, Mike Thorneycroft, Stan Tolmie, Trevor Murphy and Chris Trengrove, used the day to get back into the umpiring groove after the winter layoff, testing rotations and getting back into keeping a keen eye on the white ball (the ball of choice for this tournament).

The days umpiring finished strongly with plenty of laughs. The crew all performed well with plenty of sore bodies being experienced on the Monday. The tournament is especially enjoyable because of the spirit that the men play the tournament in, with plenty of smiles and fun along with the high quality competitive ball.

Writer: Richard Dodds

Historical School Game

Melbourne

On Tuesday 13 August 2013, I had the pleasure of umpiring the Mac Robertson Girls High School in their annual Exchange softball game with Adelaide High School. The schools take it in turns each year as to which state hosts the Exchange, and this annual event includes various other sports and a debating competition. The Exchange was first played in 1913, making this year the historical 100th anniversary.

The game was played at Fawkner Park, and fortunately the weather was reasonable, with the diamond being a little soft, but quite playable for the 1 hour 15 min game. From the skills on display, it was clear that the pitchers and catchers from both teams had played before. By some of the hits to the outfield, and with over 80% of catchable balls in the field being taken, indications were that there was reasonable talent on both sides.

Insofar as the game went, scores were even on 3 all at the top of the fifth with 11 min remaining. Adelaide's turn at bat, two runners on base, and a big outfield hit scored two runs. MacRob's replied with the exact same situation, but the batter scored as well resulting in a MacRob win by 1 run with 2 minutes to spare. This was a super exciting game, full of highlights and a pleasure to umpire.

On a more personal basis, in 1932 my mother, a former pupil from Melbourne Girls High School (the forerunner of Mac Robertson) was a member of the Senior Girls Basketball team and played in the Exchange basketball game (about 10 years too early for softball in those days).

Umpiring school softball is quite rewarding, it brings a great variety, very appreciative students and staff, more opportunities to build relationships, and is a great option to get outdoors and stay active. I encourage all umpires to be involved.

Writer: Merv Larter

Queensland

Open Women's State Championship

Caboolture, 6-8 September 2013

This year the Open Women's State Championship was held in sunny Caboolture and for spring it felt very summery. Bright and early Friday morning my roommate, Yvonne Kahler and I found ourselves off to a great start with a game of guess which way to the fields as neither of us had umpired at the grounds before. "Navman" was on hand to assist, however due to the tiny buttons and my "short" nails programming the destination was a challenge. So Yvonne decided that pulling over and doing it herself was the best plan of attack. Needless to say we were a little late to the pre-championship meeting but thankfully our TCU -Tricia Sibraa could see the funny side.

We had quite a large crew with three candidates, three umpires working on ISF personal development, David Casey, Jana McCaskill and Bridget Cameron, Norelle Thomas working towards her Level 6 and Dale Kaimoana working on his development in preparation for his level 5.

Umpires from afar and wide rounded out the crew; from Mackay, Neville Baggow and Graeme 'Crusher' Love and from Mt.Isa, Dale Kaimoana. We knew we were in for a great few days.

Friday saw quite a few early finishers which are always welcomed on a hot day. It was great to work three-umpire rotations and for our regional umpire crew members; the first couple of games allowed them to get rid of the cob webs as they usually only do two-umpire systems. We were also quite focused on our debriefs, which was fantastic opportunity to learn from each other as this can get lost during club season.

Saturday saw another beautiful Queensland day with competition a lot closer than the Federal polls. The competition went up a notch, and the competition result left everyone guessing but at the end of the day, the game was a winner with some amazing plays, hitting and pitching.

Darren Sibraa arrived and provided valuable feedback to the crew, though focused on the ISF candidates. That night saw us all going out for dinner, unfortunately no one really knew where we had made a booking and of course we turned up at the wrong place (two sport clubs with the same name). We had a very enjoyable night with Norelle and Dale demonstrating Caboolture's hottest new dance moves.

Sunday saw the competition drawing to a close with some close games, though no tie breakers.

There were three titles up for grabs and congratulations to the following umpires for their finals allocations:

- State Women's: Yvonne Kahler, David Casey, Bridget Cameron and Helen Strauss.
- Open Women's: Norelle Thomas, Janelle Hicks and Dale Kaimoana.
- President's Cup: Jamie Harries, Adam Reddacliffe and Graeme Love.



Photo (L to R) Open Women's Grand Final: umpires Dale Kaimoana, Norelle Thomas and Janelle Hicks



Photo (L to R) State Open Women's Grand Final umpires: Helen Strauss, Yvonne Kahler, (plate) Bridget Cameron and David Casey

Congratulations to Maria Caterson for attaining her Level 3 and Kylie Knight her Level 4.

It was a great three days and we are all looking forward to catching up with the same crew again in October for the Open Men's.

A big thank you to our TCU, Tricia Sibraa and band of examiners, Helen Strauss and David Casey for your support and feedback during the championships.

Writer: Janelle Hicks

Australian and New Zealand Sports Law Association (ANZSLA) Annual Conference

16-18 October 2013, BCEC, Brisbane, Queensland

Questions that will be addressed by this year's program include:

- Wondering how the AFL Integrity system works and the process behind the Essendon saga?
- How has the war against drugs adapted with new technology?
- Why the Stilnox Six are copping further discipline from AOC?
- How will you be watching sport in the next five years?
- What your sport can do to be ahead of the game with new media and the latest technology?

More information is available at <https://www.anzsla.com/content/annual-conference>



LGBTI sport survey

Over the next 12 months Sport and Recreation Services in the ACT is delivering the Inclusive Sport Project which aims to address harassment, discrimination and bullying in the sport and recreation industry. As part of the project the Inclusive Sport Survey will be conducted. LGBTI people are asked to complete the survey during the month of September so that the sport and recreation industry in the ACT can understand the sport experiences of LGBTI people and work to break down any barriers to participation.

For more information and to do the survey go to www.economicdevelopment.act.gov.au/sport_and_recreation

The 7 Pillars of Inclusion

We re-vamped the Inclusion section on the Play by the Rules website in September. Now, when you go to www.playbytherules.net.au/got-an-issue/inclusion you will see a new introduction video, an info-graphic and seven video interviews where leading practitioners and advocates talk about one of the seven pillars. The 7 Pillars of Inclusion take a 'helicopter' view of inclusion – examining the issues that are common across targeted population groups. Watch out for more resources under the 7 Pillars of Inclusion in the weeks ahead – helping sports reflect the communities they are in.



First *Play by the Rules* webinar

On 22 August 2013, 84 people from across the country joined in the first *Play by the Rules* webinar. A webinar is simply a 'live' online event that anyone can join in and participate as long as they have an Internet connection. The webinar was hosted by current *Play by the Rules* A/g manager Peter Downs and featured panelists Paul Oliver (immediate past manager) and Debbie Simms. Debbie was instrumental in making *Play by the Rules* the resource it is today. The Panel traced a little bit of the history of *Play by the Rules* and answered attendee questions on a range of topics impacting on safe, fair and inclusive sport. Over 170 people registered for the webinar.



All the webinar materials can be viewed, including a full video recording at: <http://iwebinar.com.au/library/pbtr2/>. Stay tuned for more *Play by the Rules* webinars and if you have suggestions about topics you would like to see in a webinar in the future please let us know at manager@playbytherules.net.au.

Fair Enough: Encouraging respect in sport

The Government of South Australia, through the Office for Recreation and Sport, has been working with a number of state sports organisations on a campaign to encourage respect in sport – called *Fair Enough*. You can see two of the videos from this campaign produced by the South Australian Cricket Association – www.youtube.com/watch?v=5PHBka3ddU8 and SANFL – www.youtube.com/watch?v=cfxp4ng5uc0



Roosters Against Racism

The Sydney Roosters have launched a new community initiative, *Roosters Against Racism*, with the goal of addressing racism and prejudice within the community, with a particular focus on the school and sporting environment. *Roosters Against Racism* will officially commence in late 2013 and will work towards raising awareness of the importance of mutual respect, fair treatment of all people regardless of their cultural, racial or religious backgrounds and promoting the benefits of cultural diversity and social cohesion.

The *Roosters Against Racism* program has been developed in accordance with the Australian Government National Anti-Racism Strategy and is being supported by program partners, the Australian Human Rights Commission, *Play By The Rules*, the NSW Department of Education and Communities and Community Migrant Resource Centre and Left-field Business Solutions. The program will involve the delivery of presentations to targeted schools and sporting clubs across the Eastern Suburbs by Roosters players who have been affected by racism to share their story, explain how it impacted upon them and how they overcame the issue. Players will be accompanied by appropriately qualified personnel who can discuss with participants the appropriate strategies for dealing with racism and respond to any questions on the day.

The program will extend to include an online education resource on the Sydney Roosters website that will cover information shared in the classroom sessions and provide additional information. The resource will be available to the wider community on the Roosters website, and will also include clips of players and community identities discussing the importance of diversity and social cohesion.

The *Roosters Against Racism program* will initially be delivered in the Eastern Suburbs of Sydney and the City of Sydney and will commence during Term 4 of the 2013 school calendar.

ARU announces Inclusion Policy to stamp out homophobia in Rugby

The Australian Rugby Union recently announced the implementation of an Inclusion Policy aimed to stamp out homophobia in Rugby. The announcement coincided with the one-year countdown to the 2014 Bingham Cup in Sydney – the World Cup of gay rugby. The policy, which will be among the first of its kind in world sport, is separate to existing anti-vilification guidelines, and is likely to see elements such as anti-homophobia programs for young players and high-profile stars in public awareness campaigns. It could ultimately even see rugby participants face penalties if guilty of homophobic behaviour. The ARU will consult with the Australian Sports Commission, Australian Human Rights Commission, players groups and the gay and lesbian community to formulate a policy in time for the 2014 Bingham Cup.

2013 Tasmanian Human Rights Awards – Nominations Now Open

Nominations for the 2013 Tasmanian Human Rights Awards are now open – there are a number of categories including Individual, Organization, Youth, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse, LGBTI focused, Mental Health, School and Sport. Nominations close on 30 September 2013 and you can download forms from www.affaireworld.org/_HRWeek or phone (03) 6233 4841.

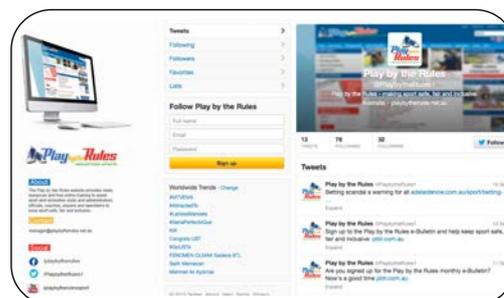
Community Club Toolkit

Communities NSW – NSW Sport and Recreation Region, on behalf of 'Better Futures' has produced a comprehensive online Community Club Toolkit. The toolkit is designed for Clubs, community groups, youth centres or anyone trying to organize community events, sports activities or structured programs for informal groups and young people. There are a host of videos and resources under six main sections – Induction, Managing Activities, Managing Staff and Volunteers, Running an Organisation, Getting Young People Involved and Session Planning. A fabulous resource you can find at: <http://www.youthservicestoolkit.com.au/>.



Play by the Rules on Twitter

We've a bit of work to do on it still but there is now a dedicated *Play by the Rules* Twitter account – please come and 'Follow' us and keep up-to-date with everything around safe, fair and inclusive sport. Join in the conversation and lets get the Twittersphere going for *Play by the Rules* – <https://twitter.com/PlaybytheRules1>



Member Protection Information Officer training

Member Protection Information Officers play an important role in sport. Sometimes things can go wrong in sport! When they do, the Member Protection Information Officer is there as a resource to help guide organisations in the proper processes to follow. If you are interested in helping out and training as a Member Protection Information Officer then go to www.playbytherules.net.au/mpio/workshops to find out where and when training workshops are taking place.

End of Season Events: Reducing the Risks

The practice of sporting clubs celebrating their achievements with a trip away at the end of the season or a "Mad Monday" type event, appear to be becoming more common. Either by choice, or through peer pressure, participants in these events often drink far in excess of what is recommended by health authorities and this has led to risky behaviour and players misbehaving. Many clubs are unsure about how to deal with the health and legal risks posed by such events. Good Sports have produced a fact sheet that outlines some of the risks associated with these types of events and provides some suggestions about how clubs can reduce the risk of harm to players, the club and the community. See more at:

<http://goodsports.com.au/resources/articles/end-of-season-events-reducing-the-risks/>.

Beware the Pitfalls of Social Media

The WA Sports Federation and the Department of Sport and Recreation in WA have been working with cyber safety expert Susan McLean to develop a policy template that deals with cyber safety for the sports industry. The policy template is available to clubs and association looking to address the safety, privacy and legal pitfalls of the internet and social media. Susan has been conducting cyber safety workshops for sport in WA. If you want to see an example of what a cyber safety sport policy looks like then go to www.fremantlenetball.com.au/docs/2013%20Cyber%20Safety%20in%20Sport%20policy%20-%20Final.pdf.

Courses coming up in WA

As part of the Fair Safe Sport project there are a swag of courses coming up in the next few weeks. Here are the courses and links:

- Cyber safety in Sport Workshop – 24 September 2013
www.dsr.wa.gov.au/cyber-safety-in-sport-workshop-sept-2013

- Member Protection Information Officer Workshop – 15 October 2013
www.dsr.wa.gov.au/member-protection-information-officers-course2
- Child protection is everybody's business – 14 November 2013
www.dsr.wa.gov.au/child-protection-is-everybodys-business

Free resources 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 manager@playbytherules.net.au to get the printer files for these posters.

Easy way to help make sport safe, fair and inclusive

It's now easier than ever to help spread the word about safe, fair and inclusive sport. Ask your friends, colleagues and associates to sign up for this e-Bulletin! There is now a dedicated e-Bulletin 'sign-up' page you can direct people to. Simply direct people to www.pbtr.com.au and people can sign up for the e-Bulletin directly. If you would like to advertise this sign up page by placing a banner on your website that links directly to this page we'd love to hear from you. Contact manager@playbytherules.net.au.



Want a *Play by the Rules* link on your website?

If you would like a *Play by the Rules* link on your website, simply send a request via email to manager@playbytherules.net.au and we will send you some brief text about the program and a logo to upload on your site. This will provide a direct link for your users to access a range of excellent resources and information on how to keep sport safe, fair and inclusive.

Don't forget to find us on Facebook, Twitter 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.



Everyone has a role to play in creating inclusive, safe and fair sporting environments
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