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Senior Umpire Meeting - Mittagong RSL Club

8th June 2022, 6.30pm

Attendance Recorded

- **Welcome – Melinda Armstrong**

All members present were welcomed and thanked for their attendance, with a brief overview of the purpose and required outcomes of the meeting explained.

Glenn Fleming (SHHI President) addressed the meeting to thank umpires and express the expectations of SHHI Executive. Glenn had spoken personally with two teams of recent, he explained to the meeting his reasons for and conversations with the two teams.

- **Mid-Season Overview**

Round table discussion opened up regarding the progress to date of Senior Umpiring and how better to officiate games for the benefit of players, umpires, Tech officials, spectators.

It was agreed that all SHHI Umpires need to be more consistent with their umpiring, communication, interpretation of rules, application of rules and the level of consistency is to flow from U13 – 1st Grade

Detailed Clarification of discussion/decisions in annexure.

- **Rule Clarification (HNSW)**

Directive from HNSW read out and discussed, all nominated umpires to receive emailed copy.

- **SHHI Expectations – Melinda Armstrong & Dan Parker**

Information was provided to all umpires regarding the expectations & standards for all SH umpires. Details within annexure

- **1st Men - Nathan Wright**

Nathan was asked to present to all attendee's his management plan and approach for umpiring 1st Men. Nathan gave a detailed overview of how to approach the game, the importance of a pre-game talk with co-umpire & captains, and to provide the standard & level of consistency expected by players.

- **Feedback & Questions from Umpires present**

All in attendance discussed various issues & complications faced by umpires in 2022.

- It was decided by all umpires present, that games will commence as in previous years:

Two minutes prior to scheduled start time,
Teams will both 'run on & line up' in the center of the pitch,
Umpires will check mouthguards/shinpads,
Address captains/teams of their expectations,
Captains will 'toss' for possession or direction,
Teams will 'three cheers'.

This is to be implemented for all games from U11 – Seniors.

- Adam & Connor Miller provided feedback given during umpire briefing at recent U15 State Championships. Umpire resources/briefing notes will be provided to all umpires
- Adam Miller requested that the Executive be made aware of the payment system for 2022 is inadequate, not in line with other associations, and does not reflect an umpire's ability. The current payment schedule does not make umpiring a viable option for some as the cost to travel & attend games outweigh the payment received. It was explained to all, the budget for 2020 & 2021 would have been exceeded based on the trajectory at the time, however COVID restrictions cutting seasons short is the only thing that prevented this. The budget for umpiring in 2022 was set based upon prior years.

- Attendees were advised that if they wish to see umpire payments increase and a different payment schedule set in place, they should speak with their clubs and have their clubs submit a proposal for a payment increase per player at the time of registration to be able to pay umpires accordingly. The information regarding the current payment scheme and complaints regarding it, will be presented to the SHHI Executive Committee as requested.
- The Junior Umpire program was discussed, with many providing feedback regarding the progress of junior umpires, and compliments regarding their 2022 Umpire Shirts and professional appearance, confidence & attitudes.
- It was questioned the necessity to have juniors (8-11) on U7 & U9 games as they may not be learning how to umpire or the rules. Dan explained the entire purpose of beginning on U7 & U9 games was to give junior umpires a safe environment to have the confidence to blow their whistle and instruct players, take control of a game and progress to U11 structured games.
- Byron Kaufline, Conor Miller & Natalie Wilson were thanked for their assistance and willingness to mentor and train junior umpires as they progress from U7 – U15 Umpires. Byron, Connor & Natalie have been a large part of junior progression, and it is very much appreciated. It should be noted, there are many other seniors participating with Junior Supervision, the three present provided feedback on progress, and were personally thanked.
- Alison Mackay offered to prepare and assess juniors for their accreditation.
- To date, 4 Juniors have been signed off and earned their HNSW Community Umpire Accreditation with 5-6 more targeted to achieve accreditation by season end. The Junior Umpire program is having wonderful success at seeing many learners progress from U7/U9 to independent U13/U15 games.
- Unacceptable behaviour from spectators/team officials during junior games was also discussed with all encouraged to speak to offenders at the time and to have the information recorded on the game card for SHHI Executive review. It is not acceptable at any time for any person to display negativity toward any umpire, especially a Junior Umpire.
It is to be noted that that ALL umpires of ALL grades have the right to feel safe, and may walk away from a game should they not feel safe & supported.
- Junior Umpire will be advised that if they are receiving any negative comments from Spectators/Players/Team Officials, they are to stop the game and immediately report the behaviour to a Senior Umpire, tech Official, Executive member or a Senior member of their club. Should the behaviours continue, the game may be called off and the umpire should leave the field.
- Players drinking alcohol before and during games is not acceptable. Should an umpire be aware that a player has been drinking or under the influence of alcohol, the umpire is to direct that player to NOT take the field. If the umpire is a junior and is not comfortable approaching an adult to advise them, they are to request assistance from an Executive member, a Senior within their club or fellow Senior Umpire. An umpire has the right at all times to walk away and refuse to officiate a match with players who have been drinking alcohol, or are under the influence of alcohol or illicit substances.
- Glass bottles are not permitted within dugouts, if an umpire notices a person with a glass bottle within the dugout, they are to advise the Technical Official. Clubs are reminded only persons over the age of 16 may act as Technical Official alone.
- Mitch Murphy offered to create a live document for umpires to be uploaded into each week, with all changes occurring instantly and umpires being notified of changes. Each umpire would have access to the system, and can create their own unavailability's to prevent errors in scheduling. Mitch will also look at how to streamline reporting/budgeting systems and how to make the entire administrative process more efficient.
Umpire resources may be able to be added making them accessible for everyone

- **Meeting Close – 9.00pm**