



AFL Umpire Coach Professional Development Program E-Newsletter 2009 – Week 29

*Visit the AFL Umpiring Development website for the latest umpiring info -
<http://www.afl.com.au/umpiring>*

Through the AFL Umpire Coach PD program the Australian Football League along with each State Umpiring body is continuing to commit to its promise of providing stronger support and training to Umpire Coaches throughout Australia. The AFL sees Umpire Coaches as having the greatest influence over the environment in which an umpire participates in, and sees the coach as the key person in providing support for all umpires within their group.

2010 AFL Umpire Coach Professional Development Program National Conference

AFL Umpiring Development is pleased to announce that the 2010 AFL Umpire Coach Professional Development Program - National Conference will be held in Adelaide from Friday 29th – Sunday 31st of January 2010. The conference will begin at 7pm on Friday evening and conclude at 4pm on Sunday afternoon.

The conference will be held in conjunction with the 2010 AFL National Coaching Conference which attracts over 400 coaches from across Australia. Umpire coaches will attend relevant sessions being offered through the AFL National Coaching Conference and will attend alternative 'umpire coach' specific sessions.

The conference will take place at AAMI Stadium in the new Adelaide Crows Training and Entertainment facility.

In order to assist Umpire Coaches currently participating in or about to join the AFL Umpire Coach Professional Development Program in attending the conference, the AFL Umpiring Development department has subsidised costs associated with registration and accommodation. The usual cost for a coach to attend this conference is \$320.00, which doesn't include their flights and accommodation.

The 2010 AFL Umpire Coach Professional Development Program – National Conference costs will be as follows –

- Registration costs - \$100.00 per coach
(Enjoy full access to the conference for the Friday night, Saturday and Sunday sessions. Price also includes the Saturday night conference dinner. Finger food and drinks are provided on the Friday night. Morning Tea, Lunch and Afternoon Tea with drinks provided on Saturday and Sunday.)
- Accommodation arrangements and costs for interstate or country SA coaches will be covered by the AFL
- All umpire coaches will be required to purchase their own flights to Adelaide and any transfers to and from the airport

Please note that this conference is only available to those umpire coaches registered in or about to join the AFL Umpire Coach Professional Development Program.

We are currently working on a proposed program and brochure to provide further information about the conference and our online registration system. We should have further information by early October.

We hope this early notification of the date and venue will allow umpire coaches to start planning their availability to attend.

If you have any questions please contact your State Umpiring Manager.



Impression from outside of the new Adelaide Crows Training and Entertainment facility at AAMI Stadium

Umpire Coach Advice – Review & Planning

As the footy season draws to a close in most places across Australia umpires should be looking forward to a well-earned break. However, it is important that coaches and umpiring groups review the year and plan for the future.

Review

Another football season over or nearly over! It is timely to reflect on a number of matters that you have been involved with in your coaching role. That might include:

- Coaching – match day and non match day, variety, frequency, participation of umpires, involvement of others taking sessions, etc
- Feedback – to umpires and from others to coaches
- Training – program, variety
- Relationships – with Leagues, clubs, coaches, sponsors, State League, other groups, etc
- Accreditation – how it was conducted, numbers involved, etc
- Etc.

Planning

Following the review you could consider working with your umpiring group to develop a Plan for the future, say next 2/3 years.

3 key questions might be:

- Where are we now?
- Where do we want to be by 2012?
- What do we have to do to get there?

It might also be appropriate to undertake a SWOT analysis as part of that process - building on the outcomes of the review.

The S.W.O.T.

- Strengths – what is it that you do well, what is it about you that contributes to you being a successful group?
- Weaknesses – what are the areas/aspects that are holding your group back?
- Opportunities – what opportunities are there 'outside the organisation' that you could become involved with to enhance our group?
- Threats – what is external to the organisation that if not addressed could negatively impact on your future?

From the SWOT you should be able to identify the 4/6 key things (strategies) that you need to do over the next 2/3 years to ensure you thrive as an Umpiring group.

The next step can be the development of some action plans for each of the strategies which will identify the more specific actions the group needs to take. The action plans need, what it is you are going to do, who is responsible, when is it to be started/completed, resources and success measures.

The following article was from last year's e-newsletter. This article prompted the comments and thoughts provided above on reviewing and planning for both coaches and the umpiring group.

[A perspective on planning for the future.](#)

During the footy season the coaches and committees are usually very busy.

Apart from attending to all the umpiring management issues, most people in elected or appointed positions have full time occupations as well.

Our Committee noticed that we were making too many decisions either (a) "on the run", or (b) without giving enough consideration to the "big picture".

Most meetings are held around the kitchen table at somebody's house, and some are held at short notice due to a problem which has arisen.

The Committee decided that these circumstances were not the best to allow us to develop policy or make decisions that would drive the Association forward.

It was decided that we would develop and undertake a post-season workshop. The characteristics of the workshop were:-

- The venue had to be in a neutral location specific for meetings/workshops;
- Location was to be away from family/domestic distractions;
- We needed ample time – an entire day was allocated;
- An agenda, or at least some general topics to focus on;
- No telephones;
- Not too many attendees; just those who had a specific role to play;
- A skilled and independent facilitator so that the workshop ran in accordance with sound meeting guidelines;
- On-site catering so that attendees didn't get "lost" over lunch or during breaks;
- A record of action points and accountable people and timeframes to be circulated; and
- A follow-up meeting would be required some months later in order to check on implementation of the outcomes of the workshop.

The workshop took place in November, and was an undoubted success.

The activity cost around \$1,000 for the venue and the facilitator, but it was probably the best \$1,000 our Association has spent.

Glen Shilling
Riddell Umpires – Victoria

We would be interested to know what you do or are proposing to do in reviewing this year and planning for the future as a coach within your umpiring group.

If you have any coach advice you would like to submit to the network of umpire coaches please email them to Umpire.Development@afi.com.au. We encourage umpire coaches to submit their advice.

Have your say – AFL Umpire Development's 2009 Umpires Survey

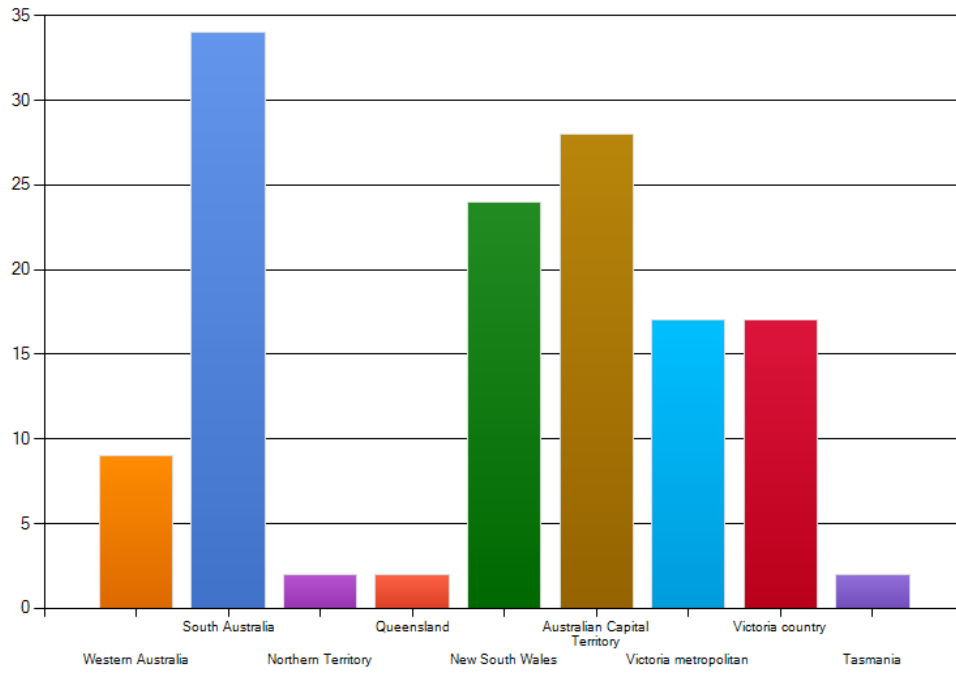
Thank you to those coaches who forwarded the recent survey to their umpires. This survey was designed to determine the influential factors that motivate an umpire to commence and then continue umpiring.

We had 135 umpires complete the survey. The results are similar to a survey conducted in a 2007/08 survey in that the main reasons why people start umpiring and continue to umpire is because of their love of the game, enjoyment and fitness. This is further evidence of the importance of influential people within an umpiring group such as coaches creating an environment that is friendly, fun, safe and enjoyable for all.

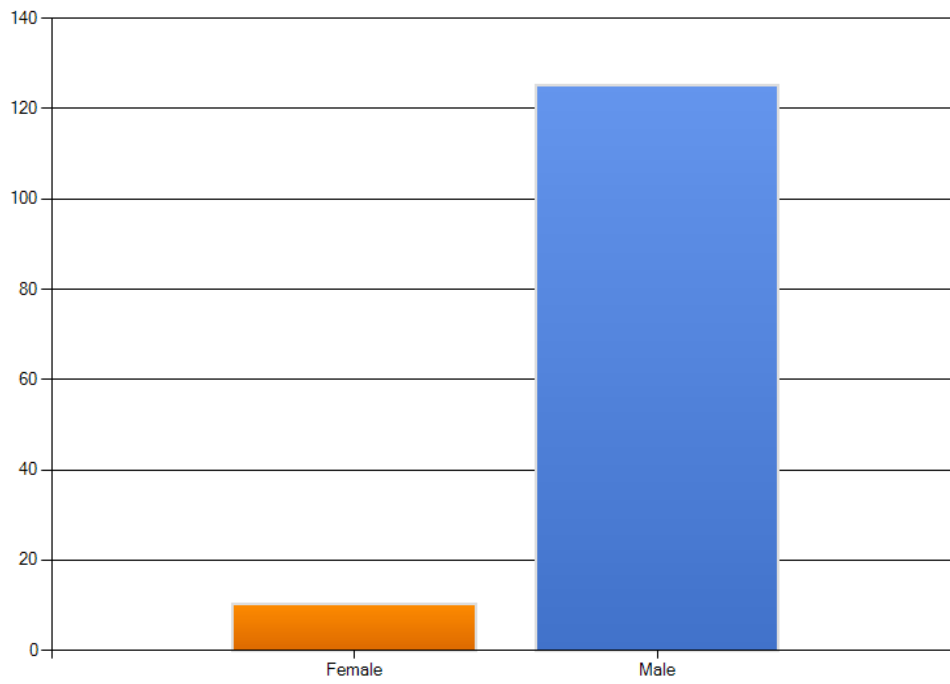
Interestingly, the most popular terms umpires associated with umpiring were fitness and decision making.

Some of the results of the survey are below:

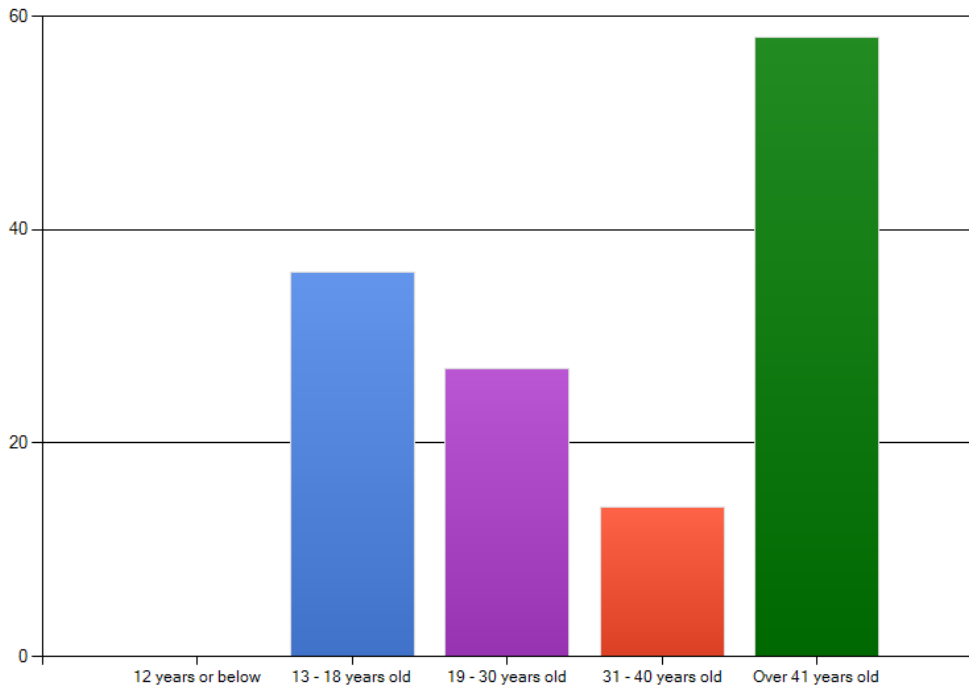
Which state do you live in?



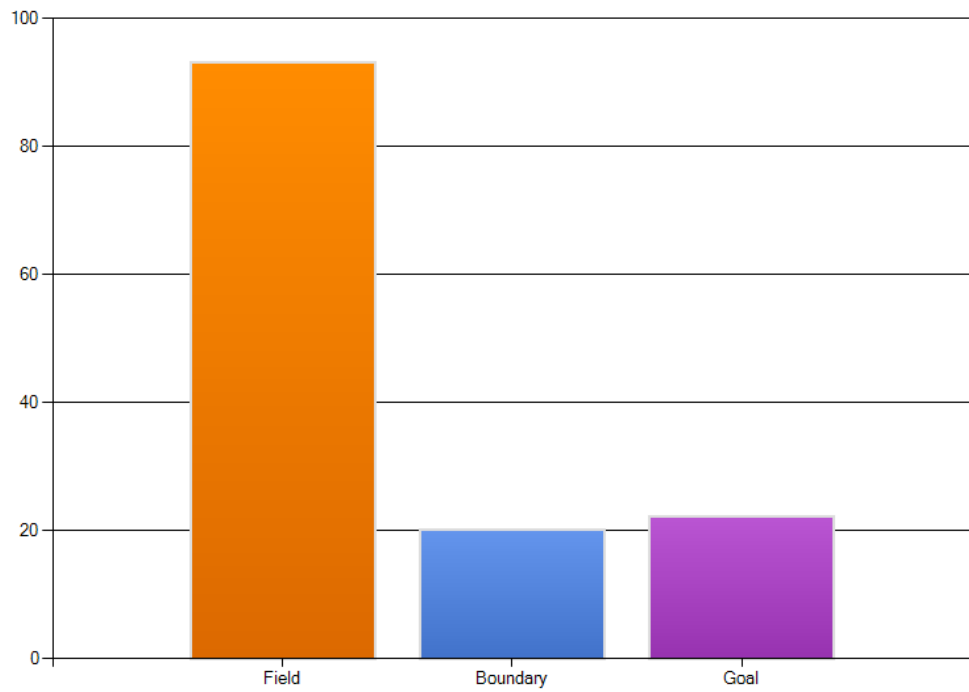
Gender



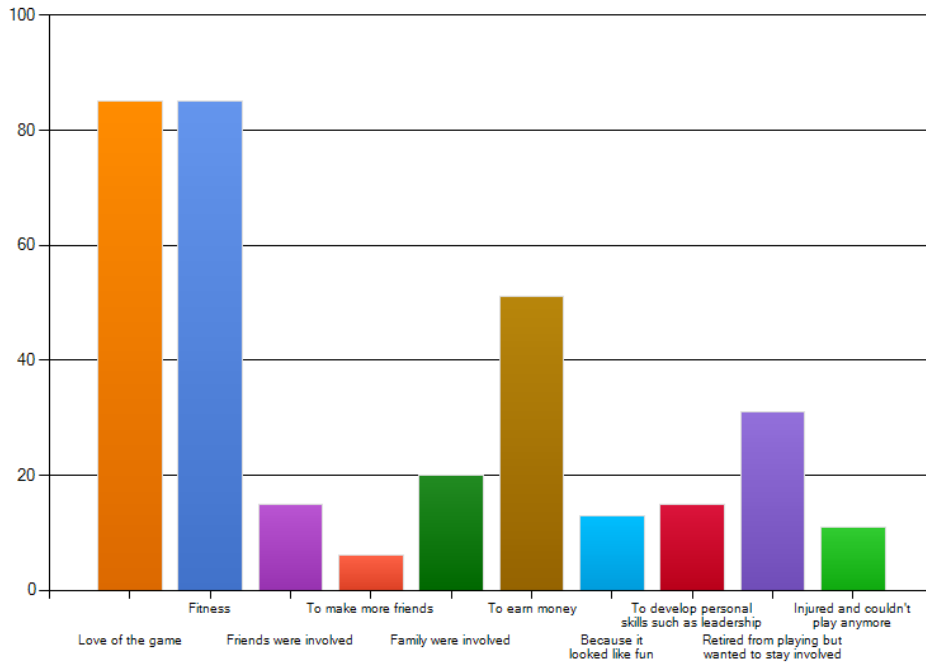
Age



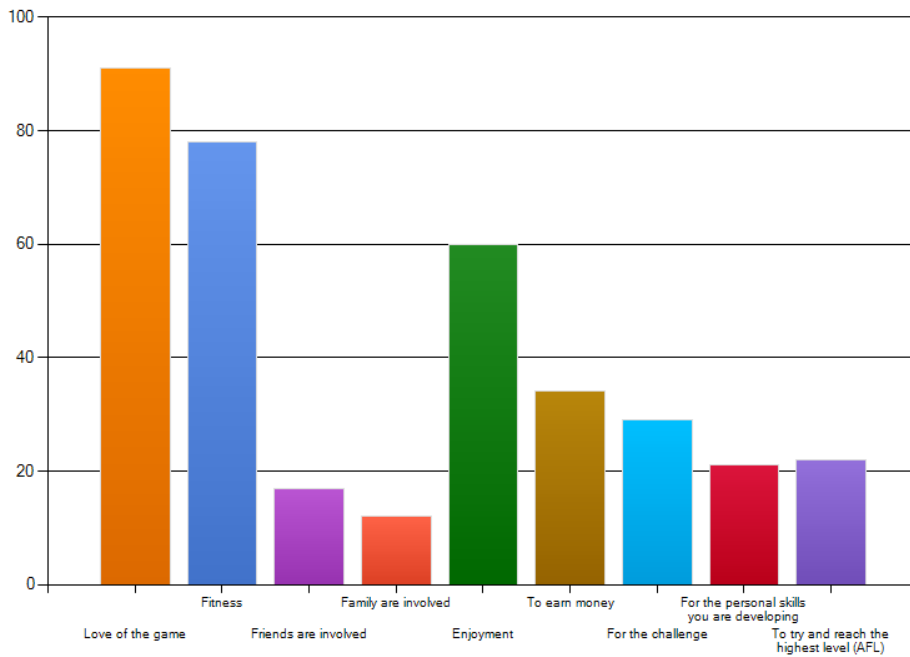
What is your main umpiring discipline?



Why did you start umpiring? (please select 3 only)



Why do you keep umpiring? (please select 3 only)



Umpiring has helped you develop the following personal skills?							
	Strongly agree	Agree			Disagree	Rating Average	Response Count
Leadership	40.0% (54)	28.9% (39)	23.0% (31)	5.9% (8)	2.2% (3)	3.99	135
Commitment	43.3% (58)	29.9% (40)	20.9% (28)	4.5% (6)	1.5% (2)	4.09	134
Decision making	52.2% (70)	30.6% (41)	14.9% (20)	1.5% (2)	0.7% (1)	4.32	134
Self improvement	38.8% (52)	32.1% (43)	23.9% (32)	4.5% (6)	0.7% (1)	4.04	134
Confidence	44.4% (60)	29.6% (40)	20.0% (27)	5.2% (7)	0.7% (1)	4.12	135
Discipline	37.3% (50)	34.3% (46)	21.6% (29)	6.0% (8)	0.7% (1)	4.01	134
Composure	36.8% (49)	39.8% (53)	18.0% (24)	4.5% (6)	0.8% (1)	4.08	133
Communication	44.4% (60)	36.3% (49)	14.8% (20)	3.0% (4)	1.5% (2)	4.19	135
People management	38.8% (52)	27.6% (37)	24.6% (33)	6.7% (9)	2.2% (3)	3.94	134
Character	35.6% (47)	25.0% (33)	30.3% (40)	8.3% (11)	0.8% (1)	3.86	132

Next week we will introduce a new survey to gain feedback on the AFL Umpire Coach PD E-Newsletter.

Ask the Ump

In this section coaches are invited to send in questions which are answered by the AFL Umpiring Department (Jeff Gieschen, Rowan Sawers and Peter Howe). The idea is that this provides an opportunity for umpire coaches from across the country to seek technical advice on any area of umpiring they may be interested in learning more.

Question

Player is kicking out after a behind. After some time the umpire calls 'play-on'. A defender comes charging toward the player kicking in. The player has not 'played on' by kicking the football clear from their hands and then regaining possession within the goal square. The player, who is under pressure from the approaching player, decides to handball back through the points. At AFL level would this be classified as:

- Deliberate rushed behind (even though they are under pressure), free kick to defending team.
- Ball up because the player kicking out did not kick the ball out of the goal square.
- Behind, start again.

Answer

When the player kicking in has not legally brought the ball into play in accordance with Law 13.2 the field umpire shall bounce the ball at the centre of the kick off line.

We would like to thank Jeff, Rowan and Peter for taking the time to answer these questions.

Please send your questions to Umpire.Development@afl.com.au.

Umpire Coach Activity

If you have any coach activities you would like to submit to the network of umpire coaches please email them to Umpire.Development@afl.com.au. We encourage umpire coaches to submit their activities.

Umpire coach activities from last year can be found on the AFL website by clicking [here](#).

Heading Overseas?

If you have an umpire that is heading overseas and may be interested in umpiring or helping some of the locals out, we would like to hear from you. Please email Umpire.Development@afl.com.au with the umpires name, email address, phone number and overseas destination and we will aim to put them in touch with the local group to get things started.



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