



Preventing abuse of officials - through R.E.S.P.E.C.T

Recognise

- Recognise and reward the invaluable contribution that officials make to running sport. Build recognition activities for officials into your sport and credit their efforts.
- Promote the role, responsibilities and achievements of officials through communications mechanisms such as newsletters and web sites.
- Acknowledge the hard work and long service of current officials by noting the numbers of games they have umpired and their levels of skill and ability.

Encourage

- Welcome new officials to your sport. Develop an induction program to introduce beginners to the sport that includes providing information about the club or association, game rules, dress codes and training and development.
- Encourage the ongoing training and development of officials to improve their skills.
- Make officials feel needed and valued within the sport. Officials are likely to stay involved and motivated in the sport if their experience is positive.
- Reinforce the benefits of becoming an official, such as making new friends, keeping fit and learning new skills, including people management and decision-making.

Support

- Ensure the organisation provides adequate resources and support to help officials perform their jobs.
- Fund or supplement the expenses incurred by officials for travel, uniforms or training and development.
- Cater for the special needs of a diverse range of officials and participants of different ages, backgrounds and abilities.
- Appoint qualified and experienced role models or mentors to help nurture and guide the development of officials.

Plan

- Plan strategies and programs to recognise and support the role of officials by setting goals and outcome-based actions.

Educate

- Improve the competencies and skills of officials at all levels. Support the training and development of officials to boost their competency and skill levels. The National Officiating Accreditation Scheme provides an education pathway for officials to improve their competencies, skills and abilities.
- Promote codes of behaviour for players, parents, coaches, teachers, officials, administrators, spectators and the media to encourage fair play and appropriate behaviour in sport.



- The Play by the Rules web site is an online training and information resource for sport and recreation clubs and associations. It provides information about how to prevent and tackle inappropriate behaviour such as discrimination, harassment, favouritism, bias and other forms of abuse.

Communicate

- Communicate, cooperate and coordinate your activities with officials. Provide a voice with which officials may raise their concerns and provide a regular forum for their input.
- Keep members and the wider sports community well informed and up to date about leading sports initiatives through sports networks and contacts.

Thank

- Thank officials, many of whom are volunteers giving generously of their time and effort.
- The Thanks campaign provides opportunities for the sporting community to recognise officials who contribute their time, effort and expertise to help participants in all sports develop their skills and enjoy their sport.