

Officiating

The Department of Sport and Recreation (DSR) supports the active involvement of qualified officials preferably with accreditation appropriate to their level of involvement in sport and recreation. Appropriate qualifications are those provided through the national accreditation schemes and supported by the relevant sporting organisations.

Officials are an essential part of sport. They ensure that the game/event is played fairly, in accordance with the rules, in a safe environment. High quality officials make the difference between continuous and uninterrupted action and competition that is tense with frustrated competitors, coaches and spectators.

Most officials are volunteers. It is essential that they are provided with a respectful, appreciative and supportive environment in which to undertake their role and that opportunities are made available for appropriate training.

Background

In January 2002 the Australian Bureau of Statistics released data indicating that the number of referees and umpires in Australian sport had dropped 26 per cent between 1997 and 2001. In this period, the total number of officials including referees, umpires, scorers and timekeepers dropped by 14 per cent.

A survey of national sporting organisations conducted in 2002 identified abuse and lack of respect as major causes of the declining numbers of people officiating.

Officials need the support of administrators, players, coaches, spectators and media in order to fulfil their role.

The development and implementation of procedures that improve competencies of, and support for, officials at all levels within sports is a high priority.

The development and fostering of a sporting environment that will have a positive influence on the behaviour of participants and spectators in sports is also a high priority.

Definition

An official (e.g. umpire, referee, judge) is any person who controls the actual play of a competition by the application of the rules and laws of the sport and makes judgements on rule infringements, performance, time or score.

Contacts

Liane Tooth (08) 9492 9724 *liane.tooth@dsr.wa.gov.au*
Consultant - Officiating and Coaching

Ian Crawford (08) 9492 9723 *ian.crawford@dsr.wa.gov.au*
Consultant, Coaching and Officiating

Useful Websites

Department of Sport and Recreation – Officiating in WA

<http://www.dsr.wa.gov.au/programs/officiating/officiating.asp>

Australian Sports Commission – Servicing Sport

<http://www.ausport.gov.au/officials.asp>

Play By The Rules

<http://www.playbytherules.net.au>