

M.S.J.F.L. Club Bulletin



Number 09/01

This Club Bulletin has been produced as an information publication to assist the league to communicate with Clubs and their team officials. The Bulletin will be circulated at the Delegates Meeting and emailed to Club Presidents and Secretaries for distribution to their team officials.

Umpires

The MSJFL Umpiring Department is always looking for additional field and boundary umpires, which is a great way to keep fit whilst earning some extra spending money. Consequently, to ensure we have sufficient umpiring staff for this and future seasons, Clubs and Team Managers are being asked to place an advertisement in their newsletters seeking interest. If any person over the age of 12 would like to consider becoming an MSJFL trained and approved umpire please contact the MSJFL's Umpire Advisor, Adrian Fisher on 0433 919 262 or umpires@msjfl.com.au.

Umpire Absence

The League makes every effort to ensure umpires are available for all matches, however from time to time this is not always possible due to absence or illness. If this occurs please contact the Umpires Advisor. In the event of a field umpire being absent, unable to complete a match and a League appointed substitute is not available, team officials are able, via agreement, to appoint a substitute field umpire/s to officiate over the match and the allocation of best and fairest votes. If no agreement on a substitute field umpire/s is able to be reached then the match shall be abandoned and the matter referred to the MSJFL Executive.

Umpire Escorts

Each Team is required to provide an umpire escort who is required to wear the MSJFL blue and white bibs. The role of an umpire escort is as follows:

- Prior to the commencement of the game meet umpire at change room and escort on to the ground.
- At quarter and three quarter time when the siren sounds umpire escorts are required to go and stand with the umpire on the oval. As umpires do not leave the oval it is advisable for the home team escort to offer the umpire a drink.
- At half time the umpire escort is required to go onto the oval and escort the umpire back to the rooms. Again ask if he / she would like a drink. Escorts are required to remain near the umpires change room and at the end of the half time break escort them back onto the ground.
- At the end of the game when the siren sounds escorts walk out onto the ground and escort the umpire back to the rooms.

Umpire Escorts are reminded that they are not allowed to pass comment or talk to the Umpires about their performance otherwise the Club could be fined.

Umpire Concerns or Complaints About the Conduct of the Opposition

Team Managers are the only member of the Team Officials who are able to approach an umpire to discuss a decision, the conduct of the opposition or a player's conduct. Any approach by a team manager *can* be made at ¼ ½ ¾ time breaks and/or at the completion of the game and **must** be in a professional and courteous manner.

Complaints concerning the conduct of the opposition's Bench, Players and or spectators are best discussed civilly between Team Managers as the first point of resolution and if it is unable to be resolved then the issue should be raised with the umpire. If the Team Manager is still aggrieved they may make comment on the umpires report and/or refer the matter to the Club Executive who may bring the matter to the MSJFL attention.

Authority of League Officials

Please note, members of the MSJFL Executive Committee and Umpire Officials act as Stewards and have the same authority as Umpires to report players, clubs or officials and/or suspend play for on or off field offences.

Runners and Trainers

Runners and Trainers are not allowed to remain on the field for extended periods providing coaching instructions to players, with the exception of under 9 Trainers at the beginning of the season (under 9s until Queens Birthday weekend).

Runners are only permitted to deliver a message to a maximum of two players before leaving the playing field. Runners are not permitted to stay on the playing field and must not obstruct or interfere with play(er).

Trainers and Team Boundary Umpires are not permitted to coach or deliver messages to players in the course of their duties.

Teams whose Runners, Trainers and Boundary Umpires breach these requirements may be penalised.

Water Persons

Teams up to and including under 12s are permitted one water person, whereas under 13 and above are permitted two. A water person may operate and enter the field from any position providing they do not interfere with play and are a **minimum of 30 metres from a coach's bench**. Water persons are to wear an MSJFL approved lime green bib.

The water person is not permitted to communicate with the team bench nor pass messages or instructions on to a player. Any umpire may order a water person from the field and/or fine the club for a breach of these requirements.

Bench Officials

A maximum of 4 Bench Officials may be within the perimeter of the oval during play; these officials must be wearing the correct MSJFL approved bibs for the tasks that they are performing and this must be worn on the outside of their clothing, including any coats. Clubs may be fined for a breach.

Bench Officials are reminded that as officials they are not permitted to make derogatory comments about players and or umpiring decisions. Where a bench official is detected making inappropriate or derogatory comments umpires are permitted to award a free to the opposition. A free of this nature is to be paid where play is at, or adjacent to the Bench which ever is the greater advantage plus an additional 25 metres. The club can also be fined \$200 for unacceptable behaviour by a Bench Official.

Match Day Environment

Club Officials are requested to monitor the behaviour of their Bench Officials, players and spectators to ensure they do not make abusive or derogatory comments about players and/or an umpire. The League has a zero tolerance towards abusive players, officials and club spectators which may result in penalties being awarded or your Club being fined.

Gloves

Players are not permitted to wear gloves in the MSJFL, unless it is required for medical reason and a doctors certificate has been provided to and accepted by the MSJFL Executive. Subject to the Executive approval Team Managers are required to have a copy of both the Leagues approval and the doctor's certificate with them on game day. A copy of the League's approval and the doctor's certificate must be presented upon the request of an Umpire or League Official.

Matchday Paperwork / SportingPulse

Team Managers must be generating team sheets from SportingPulse and entering all changes in the Online Results Database after every match. Team Sheets signed by the players must be given to the home team manager so that it can be sent off to the MSJFL with the rest of the matchday paperwork. Team Managers must not change 'final match scores' after entering them on Sunday night. The reason for a score being adjusted by the MSJFL is due to the 'mercy rule' which applies to all matches where a team wins by more than 60 points in Under 11's through to Under 13's.

The weekly match results for Under 9's and 10's are recorded in the SportingPulse system but are not displayed on this website nor are they released. The reason for this is the MSJFL see these two age groups primarily focused on development of juniors in the game of AFL, rather than winning or losing, and therefore do not publish the results or ladders.

All paperwork must be sent to P.O. Box 1018 Moorabbin Vic 3189 by Wednesday following the weekend's matches.