

AFL

PLAY



# UMPIRE4FUN PROGRAM

COORDINATOR HANDBOOK

## **WELCOME TO THE UMPIRE4FUN PROGRAM**

Thank you for supporting the Umpire4Fun program at your club.

Umpire4Fun is AFL Queensland's introductory umpiring program designed to give young people their first experience in officiating. The program helps participants learn the basics of umpiring while developing confidence and understanding of the game in a fun and supportive environment.

Through the program, participants gain experience officiating junior club matches (U8–U11 Girls) while building their skills through training and mentoring.

As the Umpire4Fun Coordinator, you play an important role in helping new umpires get started and feel supported in their first experiences on the field.

A positive first experience is one of the most important factors in whether a young person continues their umpiring journey.

*Enjoy your journey,*  
AFLQ Umpiring Team!

## ROLE PURPOSE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Clubs that host Junior competitions (U8s through to U11 Girls) on Saturday mornings require umpires for these matches. These umpires are typically drawn from the club's Umpire4Fun program.

As the Umpire4Fun Coordinator, your role is to support the delivery of this program at your club. This includes appointing Umpire4Fun umpires to junior matches, supporting new umpires as they learn the role, and acting as the main point of contact for program communication and administration.

Many Umpire4Fun participants are new to umpiring, so one of the most important parts of the role is ensuring they feel welcomed, supported, and confident to have a go.

Key responsibilities include:

- **Recruitment** – promoting the program and encouraging new participants to get involved
- **Training** – hosting club training sessions and/or communicating AFLQ-run training opportunities
- **Registration** – ensuring all participants are registered in OfficialsHQ
- **Uniforms & equipment** – ensuring umpires have an umpire shirt and whistle
- **Appointments** – appointing umpires to junior matches each week
- **Supporting umpires** – recruiting mentors and ensuring new umpires feel supported

More information on each of these is provided in this handbook.

## WHAT IS UMPIRE4FUN

Umpire4Fun is a club-based introductory umpiring program designed for first-year umpires, supported by AFL Queensland.

Participants will:

- Learn the fundamentals of umpiring
- Officiate junior games at their club
- Access online and on-field training opportunities

## WHAT PARTICIPANTS RECEIVE

Participants in Umpire4Fun receive:

- Umpire4Fun Starter Kit – bag, whistle and signals keyring\*
- 3 x Online training sessions in all three disciplines
- 4 x On-field training sessions in all three disciplines
- Opportunities such as Auskick Gridgames, and SEQJ Finals Goal Umpiring\*

\* To be eligible participants must be first year Umpire4Fun and registered in OfficialsHQ

## RECRUITING PARTICIPANTS

Clubs play an important role in promoting the Umpire4Fun program and encouraging new participants to get involved. The most successful programs are those that are actively promoted within the club community.

Below are some simple ways to promote the program:

### Promotion ideas

- Share posts about the program on club social media
- Ask team managers to share information with parents and players
- Promote the program during junior training nights
- Speak directly with parents and players who may be interested
- Encourage current players aged 12+ to try umpiring as an additional way to be involved in the game

### Key messages to promote

When promoting the program, it's helpful to highlight the benefits of umpiring. Umpire4Fun is:

- Beginner friendly – no previous umpiring experience required
- Flexible – participants can choose when they are available to umpire
- A great way to earn money through match payments
- A way to build confidence and leadership skills
- A great way to stay involved in footy

### AFL Queensland support

AFL Queensland will also support recruitment through:

- Promotion of the program on the AFL Queensland website
- Social media campaigns
- Providing digital assets and promotional material that clubs can share through their own channels

If your club needs support recruiting participants, please contact the AFLQ Umpiring team.

## REGISTRATION PROCESS

All participants are required to register on the OfficialsHQ platform.

When registering choose **League:** Umpire4Fun and **Discipline:** Field

Create an account and register here: <https://registration-afl.officialshq.com/>

## COMMUNICATION - ROOKIE ME CONNECT

AFL Queensland are using Rookie Me Connect as our primary communication platform. This platform has been purpose-built for sporting organisations and will be used to share updates, resources, announcements and information directly from AFL Queensland Umpiring about the Umpire4Fun Program.

What you need to do:

1. Download the app via the links below

[Apple App Store](#)

[Google Play](#)

Instructions on how to set up your account can be found [here](#):

2. Use the join code below, which relates to which on-field training venue you or your participants will be attending. Please note, this is not necessarily which club you are part of.

Training Group	Join Code
Alexandra Hills U4F Training Group	ZQEV47SS
Bribie Island U4F Training Group	TTC38BFD
Calamvale U4F Training Group	FTYS84X6
Carindale U4F Training Group	QR4U3Y95
Collingwood Park U4F Training Group	APXNB5WC
Coolum U4F Training Group	HYYMA0HG
Kedron U4F Training Group	G7VW5E2T
Labrador U4F Training Group	YV2FHY7Y
Maroochydore U4F Training Group	RN4ZTN23
Narangba U4F Training Group	VPL489SU
Noosa U4F Training Group	S3FJ54QB
Pacific Pines U4F Training Group	8H7RXL3M
Tweed Coolangatta U4F Training Group	4S0EP3V7
Yeronga U4F Training Group	Y8E0AVFZ
Zillmere U4F Training Group	6BUWK875

## TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

### ONLINE AND ON-FIELD TRAINING

AFLQ will deliver Umpire4Fun training sessions online and at venues across South-East Queensland

These sessions focus on:

- Signals and positioning

- Skills development in all three disciplines
- Game scenarios
- Confidence building
- Match preparation

## 2026 TRAINING SCHEDULE

SESSION TYPE	SUBJECT	DATE / TIMING
Online Training	Intro & Field	25 March, 6:00 pm
Field Session 1	Field	Week of 30 March
Field Session 2	Field	Week of 20 April
Online Training	Boundary	20 May, 6:00 pm
Field Session 3	Boundary	Week of 25 May
Online Training	Goal	17 June, 6:00 pm
Field Session 4	Goal	Week of 22 June

*Please note these are subject to change. All changes will be communicated via Rookie Me Connect*

## CLUB TRAINING SESSIONS

If possible, clubs are encouraged to run simple local training sessions. If you have no umpiring experience, that's okay! Most clubs will have umpires who are involved in SEQJ or senior umpiring and are experienced enough to run a session. Many are willing to do so for a small fee, a canteen voucher, or to give back to their club.

Sessions might include:

- Signal practice
- Whistle control
- Game scenarios
- Positioning drills

If you have some umpiring experience but are otherwise unsure of what activities to do in a training or how to structure a session, AFLQ has a series of training session plans available on our website and linked below.

- [Umpire4Fun Drills](#)
- [Community Umpire Training Program](#)

## MENTORING NEW UMPIRES

Having someone support new umpires on game day can make a big difference to their confidence and enjoyment.

Where possible, clubs should appoint an **Umpire Mentor for an umpire's first game**. The mentor doesn't need umpiring experience — their role is simply to provide reassurance, encouragement, and help the umpire feel comfortable.

Mentors don't need to give technical feedback. The focus should be on:

- Checking the umpire is feeling confident
- Encouraging them after the game
- Reinforcing the basics (for example, clear signals or a strong whistle)

Mentors could include:

- Senior club umpires
- Parents
- Volunteers

A Mentor Guide and Buddies & Mentors Guide are available in the Resources section of the Umpire4Fun website to help clubs prepare people for this role.

- [Umpire4Fun website](#).
- [Buddies and Mentors Guide](#)

## UNIFORMS

Clubs are asked to provide Umpire4Fun participants with an umpire uniform. This can either be issued to participants for the season or loaned to them each week, whichever works best for your club.

Umpire4Fun umpires are only required to wear a current umpire shirt. They can wear their own shorts and socks.

Participants should bring their own whistle.

You can view the 2026 AFL Queensland Uniform Policy on the website, which also includes the link for clubs to order uniforms - [2026 AFL Queensland Uniform Policy](#)

## AFLQ UMPIRING DEPARTMENT CONTACT LIST

Role	Name	Email	Phone	Can Help With...
Umpiring Coordinator - Recruitment & Retention	Nicola Stevens	<a href="mailto:nicola.stevens@afl.com.au">nicola.stevens@afl.com.au</a>	0498 222 248	Umpire4Fun program, recruitment program delivery, club umpire coordinator support
Community Football Engagement Lead	Ainslie Gardner	<a href="mailto:ainslie.gardner@afl.com.au">ainslie.gardner@afl.com.au</a>	0486 215 349	Umpire Recruitment & Retention, Umpire Data Management, Strategies
Umpiring Coordinator - Competition & Pathways	Chloe Webb	<a href="mailto:chloe.webb@afl.com.au">chloe.webb@afl.com.au</a>	0499 777 425	Umpire coach support, Umpire recognition, Umpire development pathway
Umpiring Development Lead	Sam Bridges	<a href="mailto:sam.bridges@afl.com.au">sam.bridges@afl.com.au</a>	0408 765 361	Can point you in the right direction if you're unsure who to best speak to
Administration Coordinator - Umpiring	Paige Kakau	<a href="mailto:paige.kakau@afl.com.au">paige.kakau@afl.com.au</a>	0499 327 295	OfficialsHQ, AFLiD, Uniforms, Payments, Social Media, Communications