

Umpire4Fun 2026 – Frequently Asked Questions

PROGRAM & TRAINING

Do I have to attend every session?

No — you don't have to attend all sessions, but it's strongly recommended to get the most out of the program.

How many on-field sessions are there?

There are four on-field training sessions across the season.

When will I be ready to umpire a game?

As soon as you feel ready, or when your umpire coordinator believes you're ready.

Will we practice before umpiring real games?

Yes — on-field training sessions are designed to build your skills and confidence before officiating.

Where are training sessions held?

Locations are listed on the website and in your handbook. These will be shared on our social media and in Rookie Me Connect as well.

UNIFORM & EQUIPMENT

When do I get my uniform?

Uniforms are provided through your club. Your club umpire coordinator will advise when and how you'll receive it.

Do I get anything from the program?

Yes — you'll receive a pack including items like a whistle and signal guide (keyring), plus access to resources.

ROOKIE ME CONNECT & COMMUNICATION

Why do I need to be registered in OfficialsHQ?

This allows us track umpire numbers across the state, allocate resources appropriately and ensure all safeguarding practices are followed.

What is Rookie Me Connect?

It's the main communication platform used to share updates, training info, and resources with participants and parents.

How do I join my Rookie Me Connect group?

You'll join the group linked to your training location. Details are available in the participant handbook that you have received or through your club umpire coordinator.

I'm not receiving emails — what should I do?

Contact Nicola or Ainslie at AFL Queensland to check your registration details.

Nicola.stevens@afl.com.au or Ainslie.gardner@afl.com.au

GAMES & APPOINTMENTS

How do I get assigned to games?

Your Club Umpire Coordinator will appoint you to games.

What if I'm unavailable for games?

You'll be asked for your availability beforehand.

Are games scheduled through OfficialsHQ?

Youth games (U11 and above) may be appointed through OfficialsHQ; younger games are managed by clubs.

CLUBS & PATHWAYS

What if I don't play AFL — can I still umpire?

Yes — you can still umpire and will be linked with a club, please reach out to AFL Queensland.

What age groups will I umpire?

Typically younger age groups (e.g. U8–U11), depending on your age and experience.

Can I do Umpire4Fun and other umpiring programs?

Yes — you can combine programs depending on your development pathway.

GAME DAY EXPERIENCE

Will I have support in my first game?

Yes — your club should provide an experienced umpire or coordinator to support you.

Will I umpire alone or with others?

You'll usually start solo on the field however we will work to organise a mentor and support for you

What discipline will I umpire?

You'll learn all three (field, boundary, goal), but you will predominantly be a field umpire for your club through the season.

RULES & DECISION-MAKING

What if I make the wrong call?

That's okay — learning is part of the process. Focus on improving each game.

Should I be strict or lenient?

You are learning so we want you to pay every free kick that you **see**. If you see it, pay it

What if players are rude?

At this level, it's usually managed by the coaches however if you are feeling confident you can tell them to stop.

What if there's a fight or conflict?

This is rare — stop play if needed and involve the ground marshal and on field coaches.

What if parents are difficult?

The ground marshal is responsible for handling spectator behaviour.

SAFETY & SITUATIONS

What if a player gets injured?

Stop play and follow guidance from coaches or officials.

What if I get in the way or the ball comes at me?

Move out of the way and adjust your positioning. Make sure you stay 10-15m away from the contest to give yourself time and space.

RULES (MODIFIED GAMES)

Are there different rules for younger age groups?

Yes — rules are modified depending on age (e.g. tackling, marks, distance). These are available to you through Rookie Me Connect.

Are there cards (yellow/red)?

No — at this level, free kicks are used instead of cards.

PAYMENTS

Do umpires get paid?

Yes — but rates vary by club and age group.

How do I get paid (cash or bank)?

This depends on your club — check with your coordinator.

WHO DO I CONTACT?

AFL Queensland:

- Registration Help (OfficialsHQ)
- Registration Help (Rookie Me Connect)
- Transition into doing league umpiring

Club Umpire Coordinator:

- Umpire4Fun appointments
- Payment for Umpire4Fun games
- Uniforms