Umpire Handbook 2026

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AFLHCC Key Contacts

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Club Venues

	CARDIFF HAWKS **Ground:** Pasterfield Sports Complex, Horizon Ave, Cameron Park
	KILLARNEY VALE BOMBERS **Ground:** Adelaide St Oval, Adelaide St, Tumbi Umbi
	LAKE MACQUARIE DOCKERS **Ground:** Tulkaba Oval, York St, Teralba, 2284
	MAITLAND SAINTS **Ground:** Max McMahon Oval, Weblands St, Rutherford
	MUSWELLBROOK CATS **Ground:** Weeraman Field, Theiss Cres, Muswellbrook
	NELSON BAY MARLINS **Ground:** Dick Burwell Oval, Nelson Bay Rd, Salamander Bay
	NEWCASTLE CITY BLUES **Ground:** Newcastle No 1 Sportsground, Cnr Union & Parry Sts, Newcastle Connolly Park & Pat Jordan Oval, Fitzroy St, Carrington
	NIAGARA PARK OURIMBAH DOCKERS **Ground:** Paddy Clifton Oval, Showground Road, Narara
	NORTHERN GIANTS **Ground:** Northlakes Oval, Emu Dve, San Remo
	PENINSULA SWANS **Ground:** Rogers Park, Cnr Dunban Rd & Ocean Beach Rd, Woy Woy
	PORT STEPHENS POWER **Ground:** Ferodale Sports Complex, 36 Ferodale Road, Medowie
	SARATOGA HAWKS **Ground:** Adcock Park No.1, Cnr Central Coast Hwy & Racecourse Rd, West Gosford
	SINGLETON ROOSTERS **Ground:** Rose Point Park, Ryan Ave, Singleton
	TERRIGAL AVOCA PANTHERS **Ground:** Hylton Moore Oval, Wattle St, East Gosford
	THE ENTRANCE BATEAU BAY **Ground:** Bateau Bay Sporting Facility, Passage Rd, Bateau Bay
	WARNERS BAY BULLDOGS **Ground:** Feighan Park, Seaman Ave, Warners Bay
	WYONG LAKES MAGPIES **Ground:** Don Small Oval, Wolesley Ave, Tacoma

To finalise your registration as a new umpire, the online Foundation Umpire Course must be completed. This takes approximately 20 minutes and can be found through the LMS component on Officials HQ.

Umpire Training

Umpire training focusses on the skills of umpiring, knowledge of the rules and developing fitness. It's also a great way to meet fellow umpires and build new friendships.

Umpire training will be conducted every Wednesday at Tulkaba Oval, York St, Teralba, from 5:30-6:45pm. All umpires are welcome.

Throughout the season, there may be opportunities for junior training sessions to be held at club grounds and online. These sessions will be communicated to umpires.

2026 Rules Document

The 2026 Senior and Junior By-Laws can be found on the AFLHCC website – https://play.afl/nswact/aflhcc

Umpire Communication

Other than receiving your appointments via Officials HQ, communication around training, wet weather and educational tools will be provided through WhatsApp - https://chat.whatsapp.com/L0zFyz7jFlk2t9u1Esqmi2

Emails will also be used to broadcast information to all umpires. Emails will be sent to the email address each umpire is registered through.

Umpire Education

Availability & Appointments

It is important to have your availability for matches up to date in Officials HQ. If you are unavailable for any days, please click on the 'My OfficialsHQ' tab, followed by the 'My Availability' link. Here, a calendar will be shown, where you can block out days that you know you will be unavailable to umpire, eg family holiday. You can either block out a full day or part day.

It is the aim to have all appointments out by Tuesday evening. Please login to Officials HQ to either accept or reject your appointment as soon as you can. This is done by clicking on the notifications icon (a bell) at the top right of the screen. You will also receive an email to prompt you to log in to Officials HQ to view your appointment. Doing this early will help identify any games that may need filling. Final changes (if needed) will aim to come out by Thursday evening.

Match Preparation

Arrival Times:

Junior Field – 30/45mins prior to your game start time

Senior Field – 75mins prior to your game start time

Senior Boundary and Goal – 60mins prior to your game start time

During this time, all field umpires should meet the coaches, ground manager and do any pre-game checks. All umpires must do an

appropriate warm up, along with any match preparation e.g. strapping etc.

Please arrive in neat attire (NO club colours/polos). Senior umpires must arrive wearing long dark pants and neutral shirt. If you are an NCCUA member please refer to their arrival attire.

What to pack for your game?

- Laws of Australian Football Laws of Australian Football 2026.pdf
- AFLHCC Rules Document https://play.afl/nswact/resource/afl-hunter-central-coast-juniors-rules#article-0 https://play.afl/nswact/resource/afl-hunter-central-coast-seniors-rules
- Umpire Handbook (this book)
- Pen/Pencil and Notepad
- Umpire Uniform
- Whistle
- Runners/Boots
- Red, Yellow and White Cards
- Phone (to take photos of teamsheets and scorecards)

Match Day Checklist – What to do and When

Before the Game:



At Each Break



After the Match

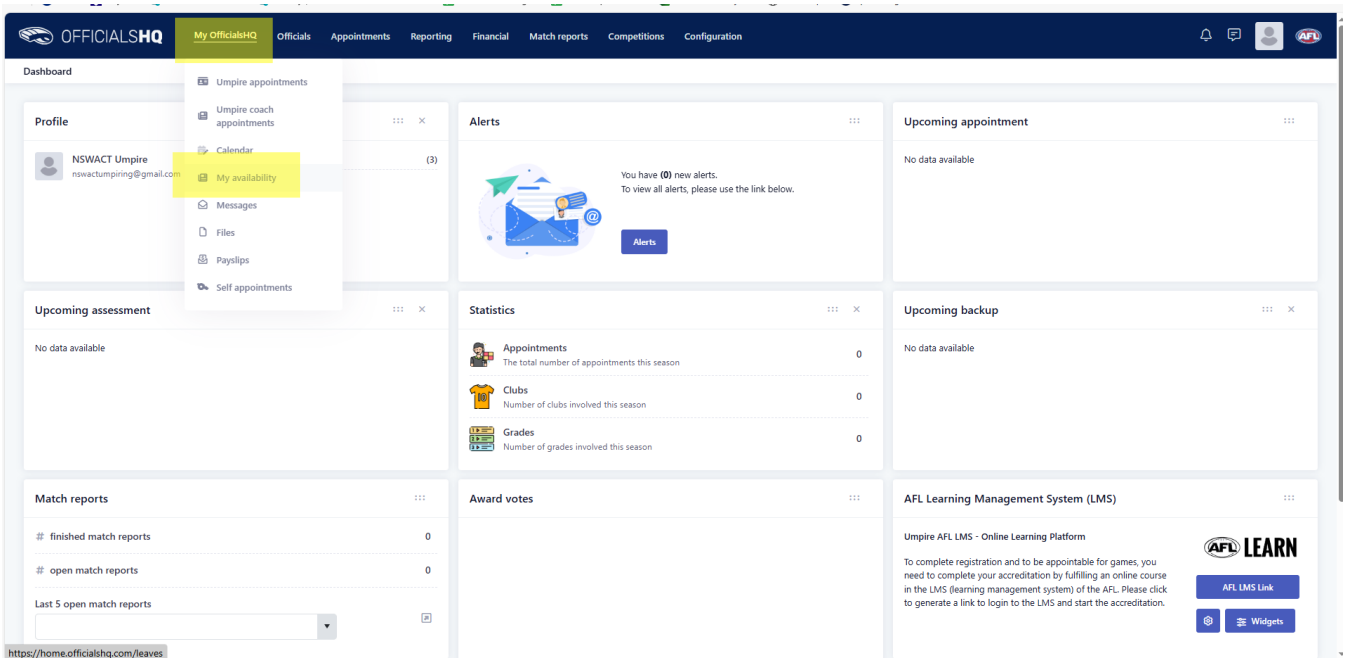


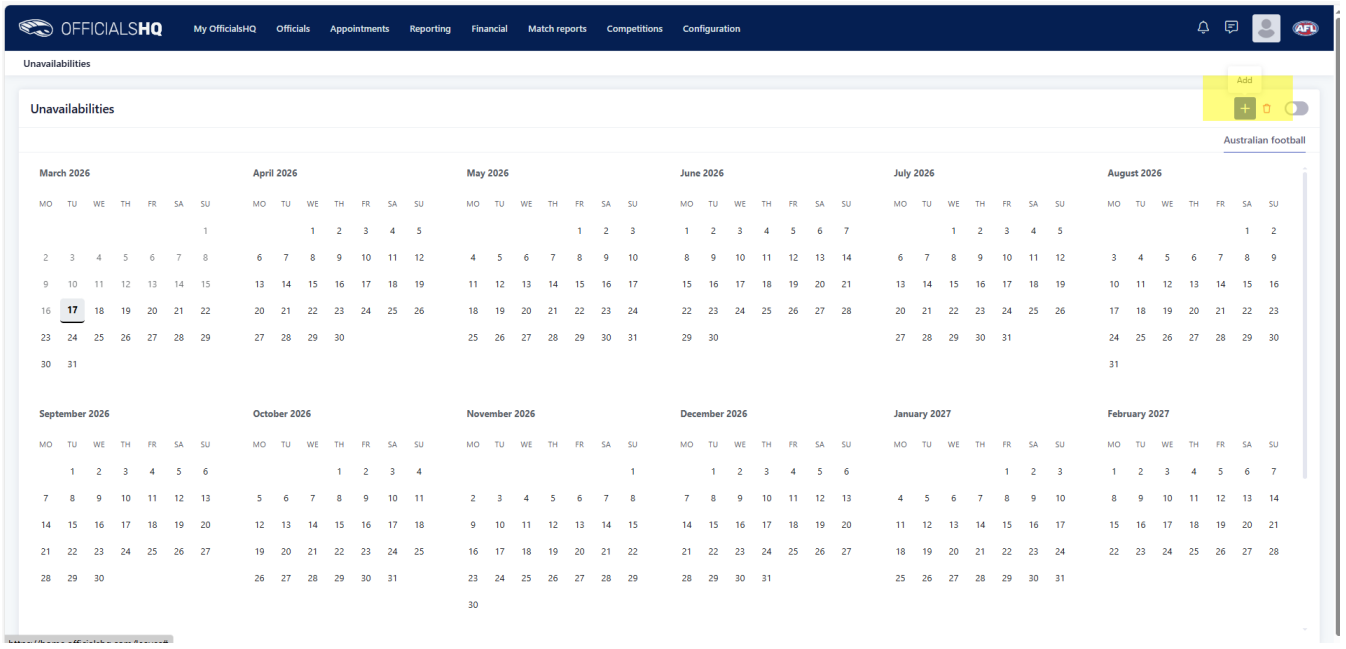
*Juniors and Seniors – Field Umpire 1 is responsible for match day paperwork (unless a report has been made) and needs to keep a copy of the team sheets and scorecards to take a photo to upload into the match day paperwork.

Umpire Payments

Senior umpire payments will be transferred electronically each month. Junior umpire payments will be provided by the home club canteen on match day.

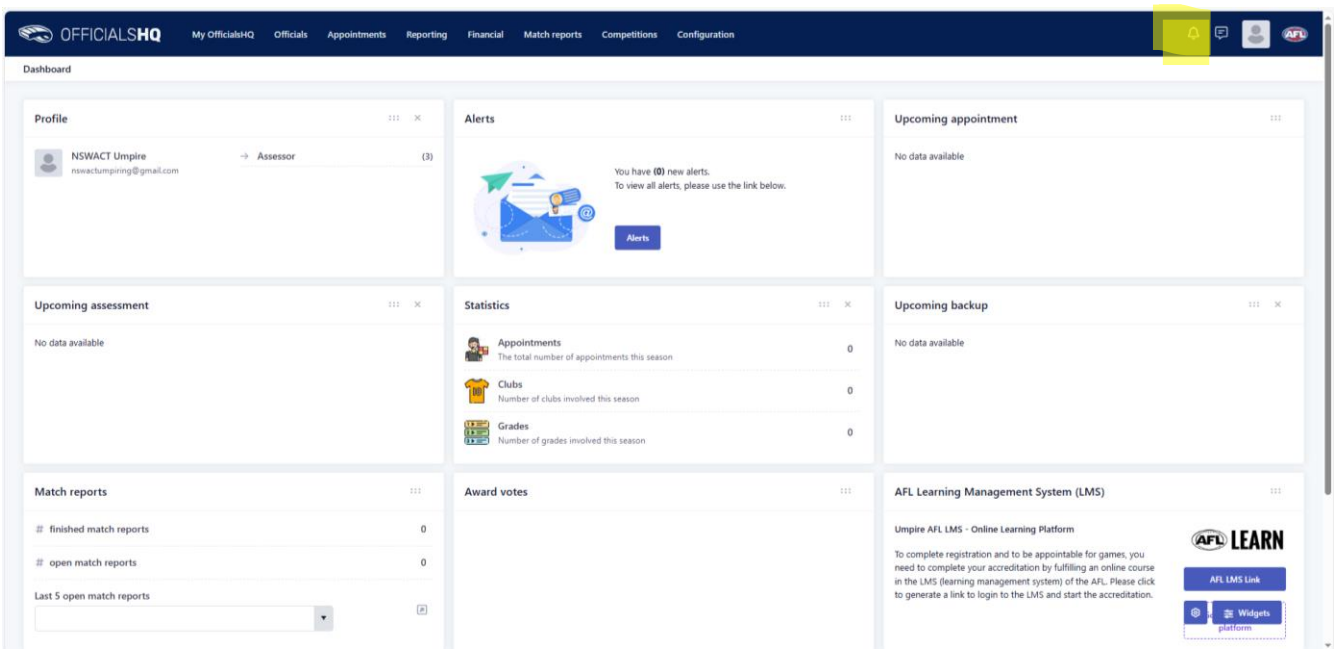
How To Update Your Unavailabilities





Confirming Appointments

The notifications icon appears on the top right of your home screen. New appointments will be found here.



AFL Hunter Central Coast – Junior Modified Rules

	Under 9s	Under 10's	Under 11's	Under 12's	Under 13's
Ground Size	85 x 65m (100 x 80m max)	85 x 65m (100 x 80m max)	115 x 75m (130 x 90m max)	115 x 75m (130 x 90m max)	Full Field
Game Time	4 x 12min quarters	4 x 12min quarters	4 x 15min quarters	4 x 15min quarters	4 x 16min quarters
Break Time	4-5-4 mins	4-5-4 mins	4-7-4 mins	4-7-4 mins	5-7-5 mins
Ball Size	2	2	3	3	4
Ball Type	Synthetic	Synthetic	Synthetic or Leather	Leather	Leather
Zones	✓	(soft zones)			
Team Numbers (Minimum On-Field)	6	9	9	9	12
Team Numbers (Max On-Field)	12	12	12	12	18
Bench	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	6	6
Total players per team (Max)	N/A	N/A	N/A	18	24
Team Registrations (recommended)	9-15 players	12-15 players	12-15 players	12-20 players	18-28 players
Marking	Any distance, shows control	Any distance, shows control	10m direct catch	10m direct catch	15m direct catch
Tackling	Modified (wrap tackle only)	Modified (wrap tackle only)	✓	✓	✓
Bumping, pushing, shepherding, smothering, stealing the ball			✓	✓	✓
Bounces	1 max	1 max	1 max	1 max	Unlimited
Kicking off ground	no	no	no	no	✓
Scoring	no (timekeeper only)	no (timekeeper only)	no (timekeeper only)	✓	✓
Premiership Points	no	no	no	✓	✓
Ladders & Finals	no	no	no	✓	✓
Publishing of Names	no	no	no	✓	✓
Coach on Ground	✓	✓ (first 6 rounds only)	no	no	no
Runner	no	✓	✓	✓	✓

	Under 10's Youth Girls	Under 12's Youth Girls	Under 14 Youth Girls	Under 16 Youth Girls	Under 18 Youth Girls
Ground Size	85 x 65m (100 x 80m max)	115 x 75m (130 x 90m max)	Full Field	Full Field	Full Field
Game Time	4 x 12min quarters	4 x 15min quarters	4 x 16min quarters	4 x 16mins quarters	4 x 18mins quarters
Break Time	4-5-4 mins	4-7-4 mins	5-7-5 mins	5-10-5 mins	5-10-5 mins
Ball Size	2	3	4	4	4
Ball Type	Synthetic	Synthetic or Leather	Leather	Leather	Leather
Zones	(soft zones)				
Team Numbers (Minimum On-Field)	9	9	9	9	12
Team Numbers (Max On-Field)	12	18	16	16	16
Bench	Unlimited	6	6	6	6
Total players per team (Max)	N/A	N/A	22	22	22
Team Registrations (recommended)	12-15 players	12-15 players	16-30 players	16-30 players	16-30 players
Marking	Any distance, shows control	10m direct catch	15m direct catch	15m direct catch	15m direct catch
Tackling	Modified (wrap tackle only)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bumping, pushing, shepherding, smothering, stealing the ball	no	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bounces	1 max	1 max	unlimited	unlimited	unlimited
Kicking off ground	no	no	✓	✓	✓
Scoring	no (timekeeper only)	no (timekeeper only)	✓	✓	✓
Premiership Points	no	no	✓	✓	✓
Ladders & Finals	no	no	✓	✓	✓
Publishing of Names	no	no	✓	✓	✓
Coach on Ground	✓ (first 6 rounds only)	no	no	no	no
Runner	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

	Under 14s Youth Boys	Under 16s Youth Boys	Under 18s Youth Boys
Ground Size	Full Field	Full Field	Full Field
Game Time	4 x 16min quarters	4 x 18mins quarters	4 x 20mins quarters
Break Time	5-7-5 mins	5-10-5 mins	5-10-5 mins
Ball Size	4	5	5
Ball Type	Leather	Leather	Leather
Zones			
Team Numbers (Minimum On-Field)	12	12	12
Team Numbers (Max On-Field)	18	18	18
Bench	6	6	6
Total players per team (Max)	24	24	24
Team Registrations (recommended)	18-35 players	18-35 players	18-35 players
Marking	15m direct catch	15m direct catch	15m direct catch
Tackling	✓	✓	✓
Bumping, pushing, shepherding, smothering, stealing the ball	✓	✓	✓
Bounces	unlimited	unlimited	unlimited
Kicking off ground	✓	✓	✓
Scoring	✓	✓	✓
Premiership Points	✓	✓	✓
Ladders & Finals	✓	✓	✓
Publishing of Names	✓	✓	✓
Coach on Ground	no	no	no
Runner	✓	✓	✓

Umpire Uniforms



UNIFORMS

PROJECT CLOTHING

Order your umpiring uniform from Project Clothing!

https://projectclothing.com.au/collections/nsw-act-goal-umpires

HOW TO:



NSW/ACT Goal Umpire Cap (RED) - 1st year goal umpire ONLY



NSW/ACT Men's Umpire Tee

3XS



AFL Men's Goal Umpire Pants (Light Grey)

2XS



AFL Umpire Socks - GREEN

3XS

1. Click on the link above or scan QR Code.
2. Add the four uniform items displayed on the left to your cart with your specific sizing to **SAVE $29.50.**
3. Once all items are in your cart, savings will be automatically applied at the check out.
4. Additional items can be purchased through Project Clothing website.

Please contact your local umpiring coordinator should any of the uniform items be unavailable.

Newcastle Central Coast Umpires Association

The Newcastle Central Coast Umpires Association (NCCUA) is the 'home club' for all umpires. The Association run social events, presentations and have discounts on certain products for members.

Register at https://www.cognitoforms.com/NCCUA3/_2026NCCUAMembershipForm

Some benefits include:

Included Apparel

NCCUA Polo "AFL is My Game, Umpiring is My Fame"

NCCUA Polo - $0.00

SAVE $32! - Free Polo for the member who wants one!

Optional Apparel

On Field Indigenous Shirt

Indigenous Shirt - $15.00

SAVE $15! - Don't pay $30 as a non-member! Only to be worn on field during specified Sir Doug Nicholls round matches and Indigenous Rounds.

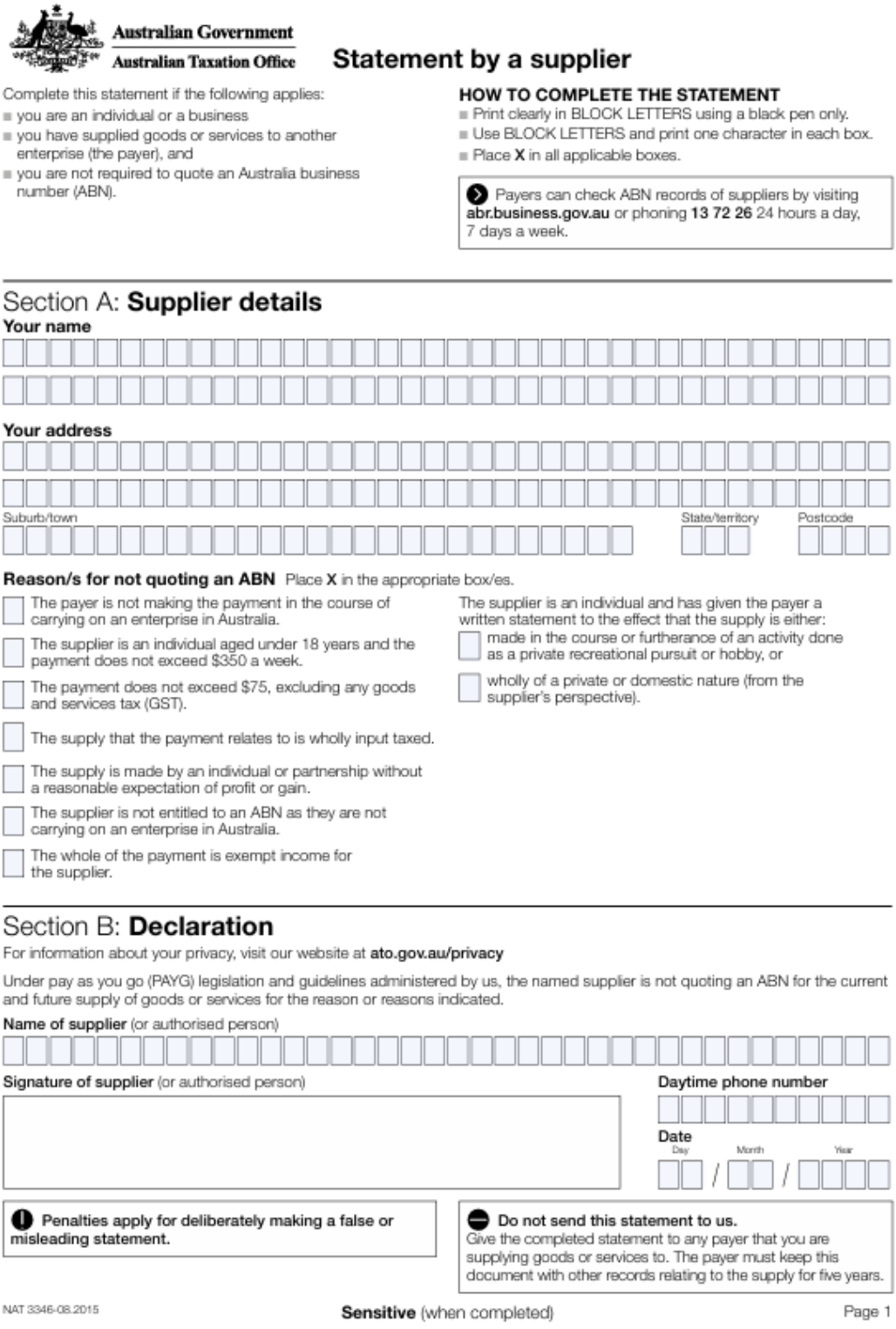




	Non Member Price	Running Member	Social Member	Life Member	Junior Member
Season Induction	$25	✔	✔	✔	✔
Grand Final Appointment Night	$25	✔	✔	✔	✘
Presentation Night	$60	✔	✔	✔	✘
Junior Presentation	$20	✘	✘	✔	✔
Members Entitlements	Members Only	✔	✔	✔	✔
Voting Rights	Members Only	✔	✘	✔	✘
Package Value		**$110**	**$110**	**$130**	**$45**
Membership Cost		$30	$30	$0	$20
Member Saves		$80	$80	$130	$25
Optional Extras	Membership must be paid in full before apparel can be ordered				
NCCUA Polo	$32	Free	Free	Free	Free
NCCUA Duffle Bag	$55	$30	$30	$30	$30
On-field Indigenous Shirt	$31	$15	$15	$15	$15
NCCUA Trackpants	$40	$20	$20	$20	$20

Statement By Supplier Form

This needs to be completed by any umpire receiving electronic payments and returned to simon.smyth@afl.com.au



Australian Government
Australian Taxation Office

Statement by a supplier

Complete this statement if the following applies:

- you are an individual or a business
- you have supplied goods or services to another enterprise (the payer), and
- you are not required to quote an Australia business number (ABN).

HOW TO COMPLETE THE STATEMENT

- Print clearly in BLOCK LETTERS using a black pen only.
- Use BLOCK LETTERS and print one character in each box.
- Place **X** in all applicable boxes.

Payers can check ABN records of suppliers by visiting **abr.business.gov.au** or phoning **13 72 26** 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Section A: **Supplier details**

Your name

Your address

Suburb/town | State/territory | Postcode

Reason/s for not quoting an ABN Place **X** in the appropriate box/es.

- The payer is not making the payment in the course of carrying on an enterprise in Australia.
- The supplier is an individual aged under 18 years and the payment does not exceed $350 a week.
- The payment does not exceed $75, excluding any goods and services tax (GST).
- The supply that the payment relates to is wholly input taxed.
- The supply is made by an individual or partnership without a reasonable expectation of profit or gain.
- The supplier is not entitled to an ABN as they are not carrying on an enterprise in Australia.
- The whole of the payment is exempt income for the supplier.

The supplier is an individual and has given the payer a written statement to the effect that the supply is either:

- made in the course or furtherance of an activity done as a private recreational pursuit or hobby, or
- wholly of a private or domestic nature (from the supplier's perspective).

Section B: **Declaration**

For information about your privacy, visit our website at **ato.gov.au/privacy**

Under pay as you go (PAYG) legislation and guidelines administered by us, the named supplier is not quoting an ABN for the current and future supply of goods or services for the reason or reasons indicated.

Name of supplier (or authorised person)

Signature of supplier (or authorised person)

Daytime phone number

Date Day / Month / Year

Penalties apply for deliberately making a false or misleading statement.

Do not send this statement to us. Give the completed statement to any payer that you are supplying goods or services to. The payer must keep this document with other records relating to the supply for five years.

NAT 3346-08.2015 **Sensitive** (when completed) Page 1

Umpire Talent Pathway

DISCIPLINE	NEXT GEN DEVELOPMENT	NEXT GEN ADVANCED	VFL ACCELERATOR	VFL DEVELOPMENT
CRITERIA	• Junior Umpire (U14 – U17) • 2 years away from Next Gen Advanced • 2-year program • Max. 40 Field Umpires in squad across NSW/ACT	• Developing Senior Umpire • Min. Umpiring U18s / Women's First Grade Football • 2 years away from VFL Accelerator • Max. 2-year program • Max. 15 F/B/G Umpires in squad across NSW/ACT	• Senior Umpire Consistently running 1st Grade. • Umpired in a Senior Grade GF • 2 years away from VFL Development • Max. 3 years in program • Max. 12 F/B/G Umpires in Squad Across NSW/ACT	• Senior Umpire Consistently running 1st Grade. • Umpired in 1st Grade Men's or Women's Final Series • 3 years away from VFL • Max. 3 years in program • Max. 6 F/B/G Umpires in squad across NSW/ACT
OPPORTUNITIES	• Head Coach – Tom Smith • 3-4 Online Sessions Junior focused sessions • North Coast Junior Carnival • Shoalhaven Junior Carnival • Super 24 Carnival	• 3-4 Online Sessions advanced level focus. • U16s GWS / Swans Academy Male & Female Matches • Super 24 Carnival • Summer Series • Interleague Opportunity	• Access to Umpire Coach Plus • Summer Series • VFLW Practice Matches • Umpire Exchange (Canberra <> Sydney) • U18's GWS / Swans Academy – Male & Female	• Invitation to attend practical training at North Sydney and online theory sessions with VFL squad. • AFLW • National Under 18 Male & Female Championships • National Under 16 Male & Female Championships • VFL Practice Matches • AFLW Practice Matches