



WORKING WITH OTHER OFFICIALS

Often officials are appointed to a competition as part of a team, for example, three referees in basketball; field, boundary and goal umpires in Australian football; and 12 officials in a cycling race. This includes situations where officials work with another person, or a number of people, to undertake the officiating role.

To be effective in team situations, officials need to demonstrate ability to:

- cooperate with colleagues and others
- communicate with colleagues and others
- share with colleagues and others
- support one another (colleagues).

Cooperation between officials leads to much smoother running of the competition and conveys to participants and others that the officials know what they are doing and are in control of the situation.

Communication within the 'team' prior to, during and after the competition contributes to a sense of certainty for participants and others, and reduces the risk of confusion during the competition.

Sharing of information between officials can add to the accuracy of each official's decisions. From time to time, officials are unsighted and might 'miss' a decision if it weren't for a colleague assisting them. Sharing of experiences within a team of officials can assist with the development of colleagues.

Depending on the competition, there could be a range of officiating roles that are undertaken to stage the competition. For example, at a swimming meet there is a starter, timers, a referee and recorders. Officials need to cooperate with colleagues for the successful staging of the competition. Each official is reliant on the other. It is important that each official is aware of the different roles and the requirements of each other's role. Communicating and cooperating are two key ingredients that contribute to effective officiating.

Supporting each other, particularly through tough times when the environment can be daunting to the inexperienced official, can add strength to an official's team.

