



SPORTS ACCREDITATION ONLINE

BY CATHY REID

IN THIS EDITION

- 2 Editorial: Officiating — a great way to be part of sport

- 3 Football refs hit the right pitch

- 4 Officials profile: Jacqui Jashari

- 6 The unfamiliar official out to familiarise the face of umpiring

- 7 Online course for officials released

- 8 State Coaching and Officiating Centre contacts

The Australian Sports Commission's Coaching and Officiating unit is in the final development stage of its new internet online service to national sporting organisations, coaches and officials — Sports Accreditation Online.

The system provides access to accreditation and training program details, plus a wide range of educational resource material.

Colin Lane, General Manager of National Programs at the Australian Sports Commission, initiated the development of Sports Accreditation Online and believes it is a strong IT foundation for the future of the National Coaching Accreditation Scheme and the National Officiating Accreditation Scheme.

'Sports Accreditation Online will provide valuable information to around 70 national sporting organisations, their state counterparts and more than 175 000 coaches and officials. It will add significant benefits to being an accredited coach or official,' Lane said.

Use of the internet to upload accreditation data streamlines the system and enables sporting organisations to implement new business systems. This avoids multiple handling of data and reduces the workload of both paid staff and volunteers.

'National sporting organisations will be able to stay abreast of their approved accreditation programs and the expiry dates for those programs, as well as keep track of any programs under review. Numerous reports will be available to national sporting organisations on the number of accredited coaches and officials they have,' according to Lane.

One function of Sports Accreditation Online enables individuals to update their

personal contact details or link back to the national sporting organisation's database for that to occur. Coaches and officials will be able to access their accreditation status and print off their own certificates.

An integral part of the new approach is to provide coaches and officials with additional educational resources to keep them up to date with national and international developments.

Initially individuals will get access to the last four years of the publications *Sports Coach* and *Officiating Australia*. Both these resources will be regularly published online and added to the library of articles that can be searched by category. The online library will expand to include other resources such as audio and video interviews and information.

The Coaching and Officiating unit will provide six-monthly statistical reports covering coaches and officials from all sports involved in the accreditation schemes. Over time this will enable sophisticated statistical analysis to be undertaken by the Australian Sports Commission and national sporting organisations to gain a better understanding of the trends in these sports.

It is hoped that in the future the university sector may be able to assist in that analysis.

Sports Accreditation Online has been developed in partnership with national sporting organisations. It was first raised at the 2006 National Coaching and Officiating Directors' Conference in Melbourne and this was followed by a series of three prototyping sessions over the next 18 months.

'A trial has been underway with four national sporting organisations since January 2008 and this gives us confidence that it will work when we take it out to all sports, coaches and officials in July this year,' said Lane.



05/06/08



EDITORIAL

Officiating — a great way to be part of sport

TONY WYND, MANAGER, COACHING AND OFFICIATING,
AUSTRALIAN SPORTS COMMISSION

For more information on enrolling in an officiating course, checking your National Officiating Accreditation Scheme status, updating your contact details, or general information on officiating in Australia, visit the Coaching and Officiating web site at ausport.gov.au/participating/officials/.

The Australian Sports Commission is the Australian Government body responsible for developing and funding Australian sport through the implementation of the Government's sport policy, Australian Sport: emerging challenges, new directions. It was established in 1985 and operates under the *Australian Sports Commission Act 1989*. Its national leadership role is achieved through seven operational areas: Australian Institute of Sport, Sport Performance and Development, National Sports Programs, Community Sport, Corporate Services, Commercial and Facilities, and Finance. The Australian Sports Commission forms part of the Health and Ageing portfolio.

For general enquiries:
Tel: (02) 6214 1111
Fax: (02) 6251 2680
Email: asc@ausport.gov.au
Web site: ausport.gov.au

For a complete listing of Australian Sports Commission publications, visit ausport.gov.au/publications/catalogue/.

© Australian Sports Commission 2008

This work is copyright. Apart from any use as permitted under the *Copyright Act 1968*, no part may be reproduced by any process without prior written permission from the Australian Sports Commission. Requests and enquiries concerning reproduction should be addressed to copyright@ausport.gov.au

ISSN 1448-3491

Unless otherwise specified, all images are the property of the Australian Sports Commission

Produced by Australian Sports Commission Publishing staff.

Printed by Union Offset Printers

Becoming an official is often not a conscious decision for most first-time officials. A person will be asked to help out or sees the need to take on a role, and before they know it they are an official. For some, that first-time experience of officiating has led them to a rewarding and satisfying officiating career, be it at local level or, like the officials featured in this newsletter, at international level.

Australians fill close to one million roles as referees, umpires, scorers or timekeepers according to recent research (ABS Involvement in organised sport and physical activity, 6285.0, April 2007), which means the number of people who officiate is greater than the number of people who coach.

Recently I was handed the whistle to umpire trial matches in Australian football. I have played and coached footy, but have only spasmodically filled the umpire's role. There were many trial matches that day and volunteers were in short supply. While my approach may have been a little unconventional for some onlookers, the experience reminded me that the role is a challenging one. The support of my fellow volunteer made it a little less stressful and once we were underway I actually enjoyed the experience. In the end, the chance to get in and have a go was great for me on several levels. I would be more confident to do it again, but at the same time it also reminded me that the skills and abilities of 'real' umpires are generally under-appreciated.

Officiating provides opportunities for people of all ages to participate in sport. Encouraging juniors to take on an officiating role is increasingly being seen as a positive way to extend their involvement in sport. If juniors are actively participating in a sport and cease to compete, they can continue their involvement by officiating, allowing them to flourish and develop skills that will assist them outside of sport.

Retired athletes can also continue their involvement in sport by making the transition from athlete to official. When you consider the fitness required for active officials or the criteria for judging events, many athletes already have some of the skills to become competent officials.

Many people have a keen interest in sport and one way they can participate is by officiating. Not having played a sport does not preclude people from taking on an officiating role in that sport.

Parents will often find themselves officiating in a sport in which they have no background, simply because their child is involved and a person is required to take on an officiating role. For many, this initial experience as an official has led them to continue in a sport long after their children have moved on.

It is great to see so many Australians taking on officiating roles. Regardless of how people find their way into officiating, the important thing is that they do. They then need support, encouragement and assistance from other officials to stay in the role. The environment officials operate in will impact on their longevity in the sport. This is an area that we can all work to improve so as to make it better for all involved. Are your recruits in good hands?

Visit the Australian Sports Commission officiating website
ausport.gov.au/participating/officials

FOOTBALL REFS HIT THE RIGHT PITCH

BY SHARON PHILLIPS

When football referees Tammy Ogston and Mark Shield were named best referees in the Asian region late last year, it marked a turning point for football in Australia.

Australia only joined the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) two years ago, and Ogston and Shield picked up their awards over more than 55 male and 57 female AFC peers.

For Shield, the award was a career highlight, 'outside being appointed to a World Cup, and a really good thing in terms of cementing the reputation that Australian referees are building'. For Ogston, being named in the same category as Shield was surreal. 'I nearly had a heart attack. Mark is just a wonderful referee and has done so much for men's football.'

Yet Ogston's record is no less impressive than Shield's. She has refereed in three women's World Cups, the most recent as referee for both the opening and final matches of the 2007 FIFA Women's World Cup.

It is a long way from her first refereeing gig — a Division 6 men's game in Brisbane in 1993 — but her progress towards top-class refereeing appointments has not been without hiccups. Ogston recalls a 'friendly' match in 1996 between Australia and Italy in Sydney that nearly caused her to give refereeing away. 'I don't know what was going on, but it just seemed that the way the Italians were tackling, they were out to kill Australia. I was cool and calm until half time when I went to the rooms. I broke down and took off my boots and shirts and told the national coach of referees that if I had to go out there again, someone would be killed and I might not get off the park alive. It took him 15 minutes to convince me to get back out there.'

This, and many other experiences racked up on the pitch, is what is tempting Ogston towards a move into referee instructing. 'I've had a good run and I want to give something back to the sport ... to help prepare up-and-coming referees.'



She has seen a lot of changes in her decade at the top of the sport, citing an increase in professionalism and opportunities for referees among them. 'When I first started, you might be lucky to do one international a year. Now there are so many international games, World Cup qualifiers, friendlies ... last year I had 31 weeks reffing. The AFC invests a lot of time in women's refereeing. [Australia] going into Asia has definitely lifted the game.'

Mark Shield agrees. 'Since Australia joined the AFC, it has opened up a lot more opportunities for appointments throughout the region.'

He, too, has seen many changes since his first international friendly match between New Zealand and Norway in Brisbane in 1997. 'The way we're being trained now at international level has definitely changed. The fitness requirements to qualify mean that you can't be 50 years old and go out for a jog every now and then.' In the three-month lead up to his second World Cup refereeing appointment in 2006, Shield wore a heart rate monitor so fitness trainers in Belgium could record his heartbeat.

The 34-year-old has just returned from the FIFA Referees Seminar in Spain as part of the first stage of the 2010 FIFA World Cup official selection process, where top referees are tested for physical fitness and educational knowledge.

His aim is to qualify and then referee a high-profile match, but because of the politics of the sport and wealth of older,

elite-league experienced referees, he will need 'a pretty good helping of luck'.

Shield returned from the seminar in Spain in time to referee the grand final of the Hyundai A-League. The match was marred by an incident in which Central Coast goalkeeper Danny Vukovic was charged with violent conduct for striking Shield after Shield dismissed appeals for a penalty following an apparent handball by a Newcastle player.

Shield said he was personally 'gutted' after the match. 'I missed it. Obviously if I'd seen it I would have given the penalty. I believe very few people actually saw it the first time around. We have a split second to make decisions. We don't have the advantage of seeing it 16 000 times in slow motion replays. I thought I'd refereed a good match up until the 93rd minute of the grand final. It does toughen you up a bit, which in the long run is a good thing.'

He said that when he has bad days, he often likes to watch a tape of a France versus Japan match in St Etienne, France in 2003. 'The moons must have lined up and I just had the best game ever. It's the best feeling I've ever had on a pitch. It's what keeps you going.'



OFFICIAL PROFILE: JACQUI JASHARI

Netball umpire leads the way

BY CATHY REID

Striving for excellence rather than aiming for perfection is the philosophy of top Australian netball umpire Jacqui Jashari.

It is a motto that she is now passing on in her role as a mentor for Netball Australia, as part of the Australian Sports Commission's National Officiating Scholarship Program.

'We all make mistakes, but I call them "learnings",' Jashari said. 'I work at making less of them each time I umpire.'

Jashari has had a meteoric rise on the national and international umpiring

scene since she began blowing the whistle 15 years ago.

'To start with it was really hard, but I'd been a player and a coach and had a good affiliation with the sport. I knew a lot of the people I umpired and that made it easier, but I still had to earn their respect.'

She took up umpiring so her club didn't have to pay for one, and at first she had no great aspirations.

Her first mentor was Faye Gladstone from Fremantle Netball Association.

'She influenced my early umpiring through encouraging me and always being honest with me. I'll never forget the support from

Fremantle Netball Association — the people there and the learning environment and opportunities they created for me.'

At first she did not know about the pathways that were available.

'I had no idea that umpiring could one day take me around the world to international events.'

This has included world championships, world youth games, test matches, the Trans Tasman Cup and the highlight — the Commonwealth Games.

'Just being part of that was fantastic. It was also great to watch the techniques and skills of officials at other sporting



events to see what they brought to their competition. It is always good to learn from other sports.'

Walking onto the court for any international match still gives Jashari goosebumps, particularly when the national anthems are played. But there is one game in particular that is etched in her memory.

'The most exciting game I've umpired was the bronze medal game at the last world championships when Jamaica beat England by one goal. The atmosphere was intense, the play was exhilarating and the crowd was wild.'

However, getting to that level has taken a lot of time, effort and sacrifice.

'Initially, I set myself small goals each game. If you do that the rest will come.'

Jashari honed her skills by attending training sessions.

'I'd go to everything from regional to state and national league training — anything where I could work with players and coaches. I was determined to understand the game at every level.'

Jashari continued to graduate through the different badges until she achieved her All Australian Umpire accreditation and her International Umpires Award.

And one of the hardest things she has had to work at is overcoming her nerves.

'I have had to come up with some techniques to deal with them, and the main thing I do is have standard operational procedures (SOPs). SOPs is about doing everything the same each time, like arriving, starting warm-up, drinking and eating pre-match at the same time ... it seems to work for me.'

'I always have my bag packed. I re-pack it each time I get back from a tournament and just have to make sure my children haven't borrowed my whistles and forgotten to put them back — which has happened on a few occasions. They now know not to touch the "bag"!'

This helps when things do not always go according to plan.

'Like in Jamaica when we were picked up late to be taken to the court, because they had the match time wrong. We arrived ten minutes before the start of a televised match. I had everyone telling me there was no time for a warm-up and trying to get me to run onto the court. So it was a case of being firm and saying I needed at least ten minutes.'

'When I did step out the players were on the court, the cameras were rolling and the coaches were saying, "Where have you been!" I still did SOPs — with a few adjustments of course. This kept me relatively calm.'

'As far as the nerves go — it's about still having them but controlling them — the old "getting the butterflies to fly in formation". That is more about belief in yourself, confidence and mental toughness — having the strength to say, "I have done all the hard work, I can umpire this match", and getting down to the business of being there for the players and the game.'

Sometimes a bit of levity can ease the pressure.

'I remember umpiring a state league game and I was running down court and went to put my whistle in my mouth and it was facing the wrong way. Another time I went to do a hand signal and I flicked the end

of my whistle, sending it somersaulting through the air until I caught it with my other hand.'

Jashari has been officially recognised with many awards, including WA Netball Umpire of the Year and the Women SportsWest Official of the Year, but the highlight was being named Official of the Year at the 2007–08 ANZ Sports Star Awards.

'That was really fantastic as it doesn't often go to a woman. It was a huge honour to receive it in front of so many sportspeople and officials that I have always admired.'

She would not have been able to get where she has without the support of her family and a great network, particularly mentors such as Chris Burton, Nola Goldman and Maureen Boyle.

Now she's enjoying being a mentor for the next generation of umpires.

'I really get a great deal of satisfaction out of it and it's really nice for me to be able to give something back.'

'Something that I teach and abide by is that no matter what level you are officiating, it is important to be the best you can be, and to be a good role model for other umpires — but probably the most important thing is to enjoy the experience and have fun.'

Thanks official

ausport.gov.au/supporting/coachofficial/thanks/national

New web-based resources including:

- > certificates
- > e-cards
- > recognition ideas and retention information for clubs
- > state 'Thanks' programs and other awards information.



THE UNFAMILIAR OFFICIAL OUT TO FAMILIARISE THE FACE OF UMPIRING

BY MIKE COWARD

It is not only in Canberra where, for the moment, unfamiliar names are attached to unfamiliar faces in unfamiliar places yet demanding considerable attention.

That he has lost neither faith nor focus during this tumultuous international cricket season tells us a good deal about the steely resolve of Andrew Scotford, the latest addition to Cricket Australia's front bench.

Appointed nine months ago to the new portfolio of umpire manager, Scotford, 36, has worked earnestly to ensure the fall-out from a succession of umpiring crises at the elite level has not affected the mood and morale of his charges across the country.

A former chief executive officer of Volleyball Australia, it is his extensive experience as an officiating officer that enabled him to provide a cool head and a steady hand as those around him at Jolimont dealt with controversies

enveloping International Cricket Council elite umpires Steve Bucknor and Rudi Koertzen.

And to add to his woes the game's foremost and most decorated umpire, Australian Simon Taufel, made public his dissatisfaction with a system that has drained him of energy and ambition and put in doubt his future in the game.

A lover of cricket and its conventions and virtues from boyhood, Scotford discovered early in his sporting life that his true calling was to officiate. That he had umpired at senior level in a range of sports was a striking recommendation when Cricket Australia acted on the findings of a comprehensive review undertaken 18 months ago and created the position.

Scotford is a renowned volleyball official who served at the Sydney Olympic Games in 2000, has umpired Australian football at reserves level and stood in domestic limited-over cricket matches when the Canberra Comets were in competition.

He also stood in matches involving visiting international teams and the Prime Minister's XI and in an occasional non-first class fixture of four-day duration.

'My whole philosophy is about the need to humanise the face of umpiring,' Scotford said.

There are many facets to his portfolio and along with former Test umpires Tony Crafter, 67, and Dick French, 69, he has chosen the first-class officials who have served throughout the season. Above all, however, it is his responsibility to oversee the development, training and education of umpires at all levels, and invest in the tools and resources to service the game at the grassroots.

'We've got to use all the apparatus available to make sure the umpires are the most professional they can be because they must deliver on such a huge stage,' Scotford said.

While he is a traditionalist with a deep affection for the excitement and theatre of Test cricket, Scotford believes the Twenty20 phenomenon that has gripped the cricket community provides an

exciting opportunity to lure younger people to umpiring.

Scotford himself first stood in a match of consequence at the age of 20 and believes that with appropriate training young men will be challenged by officiating in the accelerated form of the game. While it is improbable they would gravitate to the first-class arena, their involvement would be invaluable to the image and branding of the game.

'We need to do everything we can to improve the brand of the game and a part of that is building a relationship of trust and respect with the players,' Scotford said.

'And this is not to be demanded but earned — earned by us because we are honest and have integrity and we can look people in the eye every day we make our decisions. It doesn't mean we think we are faultless.

'It means that if we build a relationship the players know the decisions we make are made honestly by the person actually making them and there are no influences. If an error is made there is no malice in it, no cheating and no bias.

'The sole drive for perfect decision doesn't happen at any other level and doesn't happen in any other sport or any other component of the game.

'There's not such intense scrutiny of players. This is not a defensive mechanism but it is unusual that you have to have a perfect decision from the umpire but the rest of the game can accommodate imperfections.'

Scotford is proud of the relationship that exists between umpires and players at domestic first-class, limited-over and district-cum-grade cricket throughout the country.

Indeed, it has become common practice for players, umpires and coaches to sit together at the end of a game and review proceedings, developing a greater awareness and regard for each other's roles and responsibilities.

Scotford, like so many within the umpiring fraternity, is a keen advocate of involving



former first-class players as umpires and points to the progress made by Paul Reiffel, Rod Tucker and Bruce Oxenford.

'Involving former players is a positive and a help to debunk the many myths of umpiring,' he said.

'When players see their peers involved a greater understanding comes. And it also helps those who didn't come through that playing pathway to understand the demands of the games and demands made of the players.

'Players don't see that umpires make the same level of commitment — especially pre-season. The parties can learn from each other.'

Scotford, who played some sub-district cricket in Canberra while studying law and economics, is the new face of cricket umpiring in Australia. He cares deeply about the spirit of the game, and with his energy, vision and familiarity with the technology tools of the day, can bridge the generation and communication gap and so raise the profile of umpiring throughout the country.

This article was first published in *The Australian* on 1 March 2005, and is reproduced with permission.

Online course for officials released

The Australian Sports Commission has released a new online course for officials. The online Introductory Officiating General Principles course is designed to assist beginner-level officials and covers three modules of training: self-management, managing the competition environment, and people management.

The online course is initially available free of charge to Australian officials. This is due to a subsidy provided by the Australian Sports Commission as an initiative to encourage beginner officials to undertake training.

A major benefit of the online course is that officials can complete it in their own time, from the comfort of their home. The course covers a range of general officiating topics, including ethical responsibilities of officials, preparation for officiating, safety, communication, dealing with conflict, and people management.

The course takes approximately four hours to complete, and there is assessment included within the course. Officials have six months to complete the course after they register. The course is available from the Australian Sports Commission's online learning portal (<https://learning.ausport.gov.au>).

From the portal officials can obtain further information on the course requirements and view some 'taster' pages before they enrol.



0803304



Australian Government
Australian Sports Commission

Are you a new referee, umpire, scorer, judge, timekeeper, official ...
free online course for officials



Learn about the basics of:

- › preparing to officiate
- › people management and communication
- › safety and ethical responsibilities.

Enrol now at:

<https://learning.ausport.gov.au>



SP 31854

STATE COACHING AND OFFICIATING CENTRE CONTACTS

AS OF JUNE 2008

Australian Capital Territory

Ashley Synnott
Project Officer
Sport and Recreation ACT
PO Box 147
CIVIC SQUARE ACT 2608
Tel: (02) 6205 4701
Fax: (02) 6207 2071
Email: ashley.synnott@act.gov.au

New South Wales

Simon Woinarski
Sport Education Unit
NSW Tourism, Sport and Recreation
Locked Bag 1422
SILVERWATER NSW 1811
Tel: (02) 9006 3827
Fax: (02) 9006 3884
Email: sported@dsr.nsw.gov.au

Northern Territory

Sam Gibson
Sport and Recreation Consultant
Department of Local Government,
Housing and Sport
GPO Box 1448
DARWIN NT 0801
Tel: (08) 8982 2328
Fax: (08) 8982 2320
Email: sam.gibson@nt.gov.au

Queensland

Joanne Lester
Industry and Sector Development Unit
Sport, Recreation and Racing
PO Box 15187
CITY EAST QLD 4002
Tel: (07) 3237 9906
Fax: (07) 3225 8493
Email: joanne.lester@srq.qld.gov.au

South Australia

Jodie Freund
Senior Project Officer
Coaching and Officiating Development
Office for Recreation and Sport
PO Box 219
BROOKLYN PARK SA 5032
Tel: (08) 8416 6625
Fax: (08) 8416 6674
Email: freund.jodie@saugov.sa.gov.au

Tasmania

Julie Tomat
Client Manager
Sport and Recreation Tasmania
Department of Economic Development
GPO Box 646
HOBART TAS 7001
Tel: (03) 6233 5774
Fax: (03) 6233 5800
Email: julie.tomat@development.tas.gov.au

Victoria

Les Bee
Manager, Sport Education Victoria
Victorian Institute of Sport
PO Box 12608
MELBOURNE VIC 8006
Tel: (03) 9425 0057
Fax: (03) 9425 0100
Email: sported@vis.org.au

Western Australia

Jacqui Jashari
Officiating and Coaching Consultant
Department of Sport and Recreation
PO Box 329
LEEDERVILLE WA 6903
Tel: (08) 9492 9760
Fax: (08) 9492 9711
Email: jacqui.jashari@dsr.wa.gov.au



FREE

**Order your
copies today**

Call **1800 122 322** or visit
www.nestle.com.au/ais

Nestlé in partnership with the Australian Institute of Sport has produced *A Winning Diet*.

Written by Dr Louise Burke from the AIS Department of Sports Nutrition and bought to you by Nestlé, this booklet is aimed at assisting athletes at all ages and levels in giving them the winning edge in the sporting arena and beyond.