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PFA Umpiring Policy October 2020

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1 Policy Goals


- A To ensure the development of competent and capable Umpires through pathways of education and accreditation.
- B To ensure the development of Umpires is consistent with FIPJP, Oceania and PFA standards and techniques appropriate to the National development of the sport of Petanque.
- A. To encourage all PFA-affiliated Clubs to have at least one Level 1 Club Umpire within their membership.

2 Umpire Authority

- A. Umpires are responsible for the application of and enforcement of the FIPJP Rules of Petanque.
- B. International and National Umpires have the power to check player licences and verify the running of any event they attend and report any breaches of PFA Policies to the PFA Board.

3 Umpire Classification and Requirements

- A. All Umpires in Australia are to be classed as follows
 - (a) Level 0, Honorary Umpire
 - (b) Level 1, Club Umpire including Probationary
 - (c) Level 2, State Umpire including Probationary
 - (d) Level 3, National Umpire
 - (e) Level 4, Confederation Umpire
 - (f) Level 5, International Umpire
- B. Umpires must have
 - a) A valid PFA Player's Licence.
 - b) A valid PFA Umpire's Licence.

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- c) A valid Working with Children Certificate

4 Appointment of Umpires

4.1 Chair of the Umpires Commission

- (a) The Chair of the Umpires Commission of the PFA will be nominated and appointed by the PFA Board of Directors.
- (b) The appointment will be a three-year term with the possibility of renewal twice (the same conditions of appointment for Directors on the Board).
- (c) The appointment of the Chair of the Umpires Commission can be revoked by a meeting of the Board of PFA.
- (d) The Chair of the Umpires Commission is expected to demonstrate continuing active coaching roles within their own Club and State.


4.2 State Umpire Manager

State Umpire Manager is the title for the Umpire in each State who represents that State on the Umpires Commission. There is only one State Umpire Manager in each State with a State league. This is not to be confused with a State Level Umpire.

- (a) State Umpire Managers are appointed by the State Leagues and endorsed by the PFA Board of Directors.
- (b) The State Umpire Manager's appointment can be revoked by a meeting of the Umpires Commission for reason of non-performance of duties or improper conduct.
- (c) The State Umpire Manager will be an ex officio member of the State League Board or Committee with no voting rights and will be responsible for the appointment of Umpires to officiate at all State League and Club-run events in their State.
- (d) State Umpire Managers are expected to demonstrate continuing active umpiring roles within their own Club and State.

4.3 National, State and Club Level Umpires


- (a) The Chair of the Umpires Commission will recommend the appointment of Umpires to each Level, subject to satisfying grade requirements.
- (b) The PFA Board of Directors will appoint suitably qualified Licenced Players to

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the positions of National, State or Club Level Umpire, subject to recommendations from the Chair of the Umpires Commission.

5 Umpires Commission

- A. The Umpires Commission will be composed of the following
- (a) Chair of the Umpires Commission.
 - (b) State Umpire Managers.
 - (c) Other experienced Umpires nominated by the PFA
 - (d) The Sports Director and Administrative Director of Umpiring from the PFA Board as ex officio members of the Commission.
- B. The Umpires Commission will
- (a) Report to and communicate with the PFA Sports Director through the Chair of the Commission.
 - (b) Assist PFA in the interpretation of all aspects of Petanque play according to the FIPJP Rules.
 - (c) Supervise and/or direct Umpire examinations throughout Australia.
 - (d) Select Umpires for National and International tournaments as required.
 - (e) Implement a system of training for new and current Umpires.
 - (f) Rule on and determine sanctions for Umpires where there is alleged poor performance, including, but not limited to, improper conduct or failure to enforce the sport's Rules.
- C. The Chair of the Umpires Commission will
- (a) Administer and co-ordinate all qualified National, State and Club Level Umpires.
 - (b) Liaise with the State Umpire Manager in each State and oversee the establishment of rosters for Umpires.
 - (c) Implement a reporting system as per PFA Umpires Commission requirements and implement a payment system for expenses.
 - (d) In conjunction with the Chair of the National Hearings Tribunal (See Member Protection Policy) establish and maintain a "National Register of Incidents" in order to accurately record infringements of the Rules by players.

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- (e) Ensure all umpires regardless of Level comply with and abide by all directives and guidelines of the PFA Umpires Commission or risk facing disciplinary action.

D. State Umpire Managers will

- (a) make recommendations to the State League on all aspects of Petanque according to the rules of the FIPJP.
- (b) Establish and maintain a “State Register of Incidents” to be forwarded to the Chair of the Umpires Commission to facilitate update of the National Register.

6 Resignation of Members of Umpires Commission


Upon resignation of any member of the PFA Umpires Commission a replacement to the position is required, if possible, within 30 days of the date of official notification in writing of said resignation.

7 Uniforms

National, State and Club Level Umpires will be issued by the PFA with one Umpire’s uniform. Umpires will be able to purchase additional uniforms at cost price.

8 State-organised Competitions and Tournaments

- (a) The State Umpire Manager will
 - I. Nominate Umpires for tournaments or championships controlled by the League in their State.
 - II. Establish an Umpire roster for competitions in conjunction with the State League.
- (b) The Umpires officiating at any competition will be responsible for administering the conditions of play in accordance with the FIPJP Rules. All umpires should wear their uniform when officiating.
- (c) Level 1 umpires will be authorised to Umpire only in Club events. In State or National events, they can be requested to officiate or assist under the supervision of a senior ranked Umpire as applicable to the occasion.

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- (d) Each nominated Umpire will be permitted to act as the "Official Umpire" except in a game in which they are playing.
- (e) During the day, Umpires no longer involved in the competition can become the "Official" Umpire.
- (f) If no Umpire is present due to unforeseen circumstances, the Organising Committee or Tournament Director will name a Licenced Player to officiate as the Umpire for the day with full authority to refer matters of discipline to the Tournament's Jury for decision.
- (g) All cases not provided for in the Rules or Local Conditions of Play are put to the Umpire who can refer them to the Tournament's Jury, whose decisions are without appeal.

9 Restrictions on Officiating

- (a) Umpires are bound to respect and apply FIPJP and PFA Rules, Regulations and Policies.
- (b) No Umpire, regardless of Level or position, is to officiate in any tournament or competition that has not been approved or recognised by, or run in accordance with, any guidelines for competitions and tournaments published by the PFA.
- (c) An officiating Umpire is not permitted to undertake any other duty with regards to the competition/tournament for which they are officiating, for example; registration table, jury, tournament director, coach, etc.

10 Tournament and Activity Reports

- (a) Competition/Tournament Reports must be completed for all official State League and Club Competitions or Tournaments by the Official Umpire of the day and if necessary for reason of incident or warning, assisting Umpire(s) in attendance. Incident reports and details of penalties and/or disciplinary decisions or actions must be forwarded to the Chair of the Umpires Commission with an information copy to the relevant State Umpire Manager within 48 hours of the incident.
- (b) Active Duty Reports must be completed by all Umpires regardless of Level and forwarded to the Chair of the Umpires Commission. A summary of "Active Status" should be forwarded by the State Umpire Manager to the PFA Administrative Director of Umpiring on a quarterly basis (minimum).
- (c) Failure of Umpires to fulfil responsibilities as detailed in the above paragraphs can result in disciplinary action being taken by the PFA Umpires Commission.
- (d) Any Umpire who willingly accepts to take on the role of Official Umpire in any event not run in accordance with published event criteria, can be subject to

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immediate downgrading and/or suspension of umpire classification along with the possibility of further action being taken by the Umpires Commission.

11 Ongoing Training

The State Umpire Manager will hold workshops and meetings with all Umpires in the State on a regular basis. In situations where distance makes the holding of regular meetings impractical, training can be conducted by telephone, postal or electronic correspondence.

12 Conduct and Discipline


- (a) The Chair of the Umpires Commission is responsible for the performance of Umpires throughout Australia.
- (b) Umpires must commit to the Umpire Code of Conduct Policy and submit it to the Chair of the Umpires Commission.
- (c) Any report or complaint regarding the behaviour or performance of an Umpire is to be forwarded to the Chair of the Umpires Commission.
- (d) In the case of poor Umpire performance or misconduct, the Chair of the Umpires Commission is to investigate the matter, consult with the PFA Umpires Commission and instigate corrective action. Sanctions can be applied for poor performance.

12.1 Downgrading or Suspension

- (a) As a result of poor performance or disciplinary action, an Umpire can be downgraded, suspended or have their Umpire's licence revoked.
- (b) If seen to be inactive without valid reason for an extended period (as defined by the Chair of the Umpires Commission), an Umpire can be downgraded by the Umpires Commission to a lower Level or be required to re-sit and pass an examination in order to retain status.
- (c) Umpires are able to sit an examination to achieve a higher Level after a reasonable period of umpiring at any given level.

12.2 Appeals of Decisions of Umpires Commission

Appeals of any disciplinary matter, decision to downgrade, suspend or revoke an Umpire's Licence by the Umpires Commission are to the National Appeals Tribunal

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(See Membership Protection Policy).

13 Examinations

- (a) A State Umpire Manager, after authorisation from the PFA Umpires Commission, will conduct examinations for Club and State Level Umpires
- (b) It is the responsibility of the State Umpire Manager to organise a course and workshop for existing Umpires as deemed appropriate to the individual needs.
- (c) The PFA Umpires Commission will set dates for examinations and be responsible for the compilation of written examination papers.
- (d) The State Umpire Manager is required to conduct 1 or 2 examinations per year (subject to being the holder of a current minimum of Level 2 for Club and Level 3 for State examinations).
- (e) National Umpire examinations will be conducted during the National Championships or at a convenient time as deemed appropriate and will be supervised by a member of the PFA Umpires Commission.
- (f) Confederation and International Umpire examinations are conducted by the FIPJP in the English language.

13.1 Eligibility

- (a) A Licenced player can apply to become a club umpire, providing they are a financial Club member, by forwarding a written application to their respective State Umpire Manager. After passing the Oral, Written and Practical examinations, they will then be authorised (after ratification from the PFA on the recommendation from the PFA Umpires Commission) to Umpire in Club events within their respective State and assist in State League events.
- (b) After completing 1 full year as an active Probationary Level 1 (Club) umpire, an umpire can apply to sit for a Level 2 (State Umpire) examination to be conducted by the State Umpire Manager.
- (c) Upon recommendation from their State Umpire Manager, and after completing 1 year as an active Probationary Level 2 (State) Umpire, an Umpire can apply to sit the exam for Level 3 (National).
- (d) Applicants must be physically fit and possess good eyesight as a prerequisite before applying to sit for a Club, State, National, Confederation or International Level Umpire examination.
- (e) Umpires must conform to FIPJP age eligibility requirements.
- (f) Applicants for a Confederation or International Umpire Examination must first be

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recommended by the PFA Umpires Commission and have approval from the PFA Board, and must meet the FIPJP eligibility requirements.

14 Honorary Umpires

- (a) A National Level Umpire can apply for an Honorary Umpire's Licence once they are no longer able to Umpire, providing they have actively held National Umpire Level for a minimum of 10 years.
- (b) Honorary status can also be granted upon recommendation by the PFA Umpires Commission.
- (c) If appointed to officiate by the PFA Umpires Commission, an Honorary Umpire will have all the powers and authorities associated with the position of National Level Umpire. An Honorary Umpire will not be permitted, however, to give Umpire exams, nor be eligible for appointment to the PFA Umpires Commission or as a State Umpire Manager.
- (d) An Honorary Umpire is not authorised to advise or liaise with Clubs, the State League or the PFA on any matters relating to Petanque play unless granted authorisation in writing from the PFA Umpires Commission.
- (e) Infringements of the above paragraph can result in disciplinary sanctions being imposed on the offending Umpire by the Umpires Commission, resulting in the withdrawal of Honorary Status.