

Media Release

Game-changing new course for Aussie sports officials

A free, online course will help Aussie sporting officials build their knowledge, competence, and confidence in the biggest change to officiating in over two decades.

Aligning with National Volunteer Week, the Australian Sports Commission (ASC) has unveiled a modern approach to officiating to better support the one million referees, umpires and officials, that are critical to the sports we love.

The vast majority of officiating roles are filled by volunteers who are unpaid but gain a range of other benefits from their involvement in sport.

The new approach was developed in collaboration with more than 40 sports and replaces the outdated Community Officiating – General Principles Course. Like the [Modern Approach to Coaching](#), which was successfully launched in 2022, this new officiating course focuses on the participants and their individual needs, aspirations and motivations.

ASC CEO Kieren Perkins OAM says the move away from a one-size fits all approach aims to ensure sport is a place for people of all ages, backgrounds, genders and abilities.

“Our community referees and umpires play a crucial role in sport and can have an immense impact on the environment in which people play and are involved,” Perkins said.

“This modern approach supports the development, education and training of officials, empowering them to create safe, inclusive and enjoyable sporting environments where everyone can thrive.

“National Volunteer Week is an ideal time to upskill yourself and find new ways to be involved in sport.”

At a time when sports are facing increasing challenges recruiting and retaining officials, these new resources address the importance of protecting the mental wellbeing of officials and increasing pathways into the sector.

Trailblazing international cricket umpire Claire Polosak is encouraging those interested in officiating to give the new course a go.

“It’s a rewarding and challenging job that sets you up with transferrable skills for the future. Every day is different, as an official you’re always learning and get to meet a range of different people.” Polosak said.

“I would absolutely recommend completing this course. It will help officials improve the experience for everyone in the game.”

Take the free online [Community Officiating Essential Skills Course](#) and learn more about the modern approach to officiating [here](#).