



ROLE OF THE MATCH STEWARD

Thank you for agreeing to fulfil the position of Match Steward on game day. This information sheet has been compiled to assist you to fully understand your role in this important position before, during and after the completion of "your" game.

If you are regularly going to perform this role during the season, you are strongly encouraged to download a copy of the current VCFA Match Rules which are available for viewing on the Sporting Pulse Website. Your attention is especially drawn to Section 4.10 of this document — "Match Steward".

If you need any clarification relating to any issues within this document, please immediately contact a member of your Club's executive committee, the attending match day referee or the VCFA Duty Officer or General Manager whose mobile numbers will be posted on the VCFA Sporting Pulse Website.

PRE-GAME

- Obtain and put on your club issued "VCFA MATCH STEWARD" vest.
- Introduce yourself to the Referee and if applicable, Assistant Referees (ARs).
- The referee MAY indicate to you any prior issues he/she has experienced at your ground for information only i.e.: spectators drinking alcohol/crowd abuse.



DURING THE GAME

- Stand in a prominent position in between the two technical boxes containing the team's coaches/ interchange players.
- **Only players, coaches and medical staff/physios may be within the technical areas — spectators are NOT allowed to be within the marked out technical areas.**
- Ensure spectators do not enter the 1-metre passageway which is marked out parallel to the touch/side lines. This is for the safety of all players and officials.
- Ensure spectators or any other people (including players warming up for other games) are not positioned behind the goal and goal lines during the game. Any players warming up for another game in similar kits to those on the field must also cover up with training bibs or similar.
- Identify and speak to any spectators who are harassing or using offensive/ insulting language towards an official/ player/other spectator. Ask them to leave the

ground if warranted. Do not engage in escalation of issues with spectators who fail to follow your directions — if the matter is serious, bring it to the referee's attention or contact the VCFA Duty Officer. Your safety is important.

- Ensure any player sent off the field by the referee immediately leaves the playing area and retreats to the changing room or their vehicle or at least 50 metres from the ground. Monitor their behaviour after the event.
- Ensure no spectator is consuming alcohol. Alcohol can ONLY be consumed AFTER the final whistle of the last game at the ground.
- If it becomes clear that spectators are not following the match rules, walk around the ground as necessary to deal with the issue and return to the area between the technical boxes as soon as possible.
- AT HALF TIME, observe the referee and ARs and watch for any inappropriate behaviour a participating coach/player or spectator may display towards them. If deemed necessary, escort the officials to their change room. Inform the referee of any serious or unresolved issues which have occurred.

AFTER THE GAME

- Observe any inappropriate behaviour by anyone towards the referees. Remove those persons if deemed necessary from the ground.
- At the appropriate time, inform the Referee and the VCFA General Manager of any issues.

FINALLY

- As the Match Steward, you have the authority to remove any person not associated with the actual game if their behaviour/language is deemed inappropriate.
- The actual game and decisions involving the Laws of the Game is the jurisdiction of the appointed Referees, not yours.
- Remember your demeanour and friendly approach towards others will often minimise any major or ongoing breaches of our Match Rules.



For more information contact the
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