



BAROSSA, LIGHT AND GAWLER UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

2025 UMPIRES HANDBOOK

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BLG Umpire Coordinator's Welcome

Season 2025 is upon us. Another year and a new start to a season with new challenges. I would like to extend a warm welcome to all new umpires to the panel and to our returning umpires for season 2025.

The strength of our panel is based on our members' willingness to make things work, they do extra appointments to try and support Barossa Light and Gawler Football as much as possible. Admittedly our panel is aging but that also provides a wealth of experience that can be passed on to new or developing umpires. In 2024 we saw five new umpires at Senior A Grade Level, some of which were relatively new to umpiring. It reflects well on what we are doing as a panel and trying to grow and support grassroots football.

We continue to try and sell the message that umpiring is a great way to keep involved in football and a fantastic way to stay out on the field well after our years of playing the great game are behind us. It also keeps us part of a special group that gathers weekly and reflects on our experiences and challenges that we face each weekend umpiring one of the most difficult sports to officiate in the world.

The BLG Umpiring Panel provides an opportunity for anyone aged 12 or above to be involved in field or boundary umpiring which enables all fixtures in the Barossa, Light and Gawler Football Association (BLGFA) and Barossa Light and Gawler Women (BLGW) to be played in a fair manner with panel umpires provided across most grades.

As umpires are responsible for officiating a football match both on and off the field, you are expected to act with honesty, integrity, trust, and respect, as you are an integral part of the BLGFA and the Umpiring Panel. We also expect our umpires to appear professional in their appearance and conduct on and off the field.

The coaching panel will aim to assist and continually improve each umpire and to make their experience as enjoyable as possible.

If we believe the BLGFA on of the best country football leagues in South Australia (SA), then we as umpires need to continue to aspire to become the best umpiring panel in country SA.

Best of luck to all members of the Panel in 2025 whether it be your first season or your 20th season on the panel.

Matt Patterson
BLG Umpire Coordinator

BLGUA Officials & Contacts

BLG Umpire Coordinator: Matt Patterson
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BLG Umpire Development
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BLG Umpire Skills

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Secretary: Tim Asher
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Treasurer: Kailin Sullivan
Ph: 0467 025 460
Email: kailin.sullivan.1@gmail.com

Uniform Coordinators: Alan Birchard & Robert Polito
Ph: 0418 811 037 / 0457 413 092

Committee Members: Matt Patterson
Ryan Prentice
Randal Murch – **Child Safety Officer**
Robert Polito – **Umpire Welfare**
Alan Birchard
Jake Saunderson

Website: www.blg-umpires.sportingpulse.net

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BLGUmpires>

SANFL

Football Operations
Coordinator
Central Zone
Simon Purdue
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Email: simon.purdue@sanfl.com.au

BLGFA Contacts

BLGFA

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Ph: 0438 200 310

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BLGFA

Secretary:

Judy Watson

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BLGFA

Football Administrator

Zenon 'Zok' Okunieff

Ph: 0408 849 877

Email: registrations@blgfa.com.au

Umpires Calendar 2025

MONTH	DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT	VENUE
February	5 th	Wednesday	6:30pm	Pre-Season Training Commences	Gawler Oval
	19 th	Wednesday	After Training	Umpire Registration Night / Goal Umpire Session SANFL	Gawler Oval
	26 th	Wednesday	8.00pm	Committee Meeting	The Exchange
March	19 th	Wednesday	6.30pm	SANFL Training Night	Gawler Central
	26 th	Wednesday		Committee Meeting	The Exchange
April	2 nd	Wednesday	8.00pm	Lecture Night	Gawler Central
	5 th	Saturday		Season Commences	
	12 th and 19 th	Saturday	-	Gather Round and Easter	No Football
	23 rd	Wednesday	6.30pm	SANFL Training Night	Gawler Central
	25 th	Friday		ANZAC Split Round 3 x matches	
	26 th	Saturday	-	ANZAC Split Round 1 x match	
May	14 th	Wednesday	8:00pm	Committee Meeting	The Exchange
	21 st	Wednesday	6.30pm	SANFL Training Night	Gawler Central
	28 th	Wednesday	8:00pm	Lecture Night	Gawler Central
June	7 th	Saturday	-	King's Birthday Long Weekend (No BLGFA games)	-
	18 th	Wednesday	6.30pm	SANFL Training Night	Gawler Central
	25 th	Wednesday	8:00pm	Committee Meeting	The Exchange
July	9 th	Saturday	-	Zone Championships (No BLGFA games)	-
	16 th	Wednesday	6.30pm	SANFL Training Night	Gawler Central
	30 th	Wednesday	6.30pm	Lecture Night	-
August	13 th	Wednesday	8:00pm	Committee Meeting	The Exchange
	20 th	Wednesday	6.30pm	SANFL Training Night	Gawler Central

	27 th	Wednesday	8:00pm	Lecture Night	Gawler Central
September	6 th /7 th	Saturday / Sunday		Finals Commence	
	10 th	Wednesday	8:00pm	Committee Meeting	The Exchange
	17 th	Wednesday	8:00pm	Lecture Night	Gawler Central
	20 th	Saturday	-	Grand Final Day	Kapunda Oval
	24 th	Wednesday	6.30pm	Presentation Dinner	Nixon Function Centre, Gawler Oval
November	26 th	Wednesday	TBC	Annual General Meeting	GCFC

BLGFA Season Fixture 2025

Rnd 1 – 5th April

Willaston v South Gawler
Kapunda v Angaston
Gawler Central v Tanunda
Nuriootpa v Barossa District
Bye v Freeling

12th April – Gather Round

19th April – Easter Weekend

Rnd 2 – (Anzac Round)

25th April

Nuriootpa v Angaston
Tanunda v Barossa District (Night match)
Kapunda v Freeling

26th April

Gawler Central v South Gawler
Bye v Willaston

Rnd 3 – 3rd May

Angaston v Gawler Central
South Gawler v Kapunda
Tanunda v Nuriootpa
Freeling v Willaston
Bye v Barossa District

Rnd 4 – 10th May

Gawler Central v Willaston
Nuriootpa v Freeling
Tanunda v Angaston
Barossa District v South Gawler
Bye v Kapunda

Rnd 5 – 17th May

South Gawler v Tanunda
Freeling v Barossa District
Willaston v Nuriootpa
Kapunda v Gawler Central
Bye v Angaston

Rnd 6 – 24th May

Willaston v Barossa Districts
Nuriootpa v Kapunda
Freeling v Tanunda
Angaston v South Gawler
Bye v Gawler Central

Rnd 7 – 31st May

Barossa District v Gawler Central
(Night match)
Tanunda v Kapunda
Angaston v Willaston
South Gawler v Freeling
Bye v Nuriootpa

7th June - Long Weekend

Interleague Game

Rnd 8 – 14th June

Freeling v Angaston
Willaston v Tanunda
Kapunda v Barossa District
Gawler Central v Nuriootpa
Bye v South Gawler

Rnd 9 – 21st June

Barossa District v Angaston
Nuriootpa v Gawler South
Gawler Central v Freeling
Kapunda v Willaston
Bye v Tanunda

Rnd 10 – 28th June

South Gawler v Willaston
Angaston v Kapunda
Tanunda v Gawler Central
Barossa District v Nuriootpa
Bye v Freeling

Rnd 11 – 5th July

Freeling v Kapunda
South Gawler v Gawler Central
Angaston v Nuriootpa
Barossa District v Tanunda
Bye v Willaston

12th -13th July - Zone Championships

Rnd 12 – 19th July

Nuriootpa v Tanunda
Gawler Central v Angaston
Kapunda v South Gawler
Willaston v Freeling
Bye v Barossa Districts

Rnd 13 – 26th July

Willaston v Gawler Central
Freeling v Nuriootpa
South Gawler v Barossa District
Angaston v Tanunda
Bye v Kapunda

Rnd 14 – 2nd August

Tanunda v South Gawler
Barossa District v Freeling
Nuriootpa v Willaston
Gawler Central v Kapunda
Bye v Angaston

Rnd 15 – 9th August

Kapunda v Nuriootpa
Barossa District v Willaston
Tanunda v Freeling
South Gawler v Angaston
Bye v Gawler Central

Rnd 16 – 16th August

Gawler Central v Barossa District
Kapunda v Tanunda
Willaston v Angaston
Freeling v South Gawler
Bye v Nuriootpa

Rnd 17 – 23rd August

Angaston v Freeling
Tanunda v Willaston
Barossa District v Kapunda
Nuriootpa v Gawler Central
Bye v South Gawler

Rnd 18 – 30th August

Angaston v Barossa District
South Gawler v Nuriootpa
Freeling v Gawler Central
Willaston v Kapunda
Bye v Tanunda

2025 Finals Venues:

Saturday 6th September

Second Semi Final – South Gawler

Sunday 7th September

First Semi Final – Barossa District

Saturday 13th September

Preliminary Final – Nuriootpa

Saturday 20th September

Grand Final – Kapunda

BLGUA Expectations

Mission Statement:

To provide quality umpiring at a Community Football level to all clubs within the Barossa, Light & Gawler Football Association.

Objects of the Association:

- *To promote Australian Rules Football and Umpiring of Australian Rules Football*
- *To promote harmony amongst its members and in conjunction with the Barossa, Light and Gawler Football Association and Barossa, Light and Gawler Women's League in the development and presentation of the game*

Structured

- Training & selection processes
- Recruitment and retention
- Education & lecture presentations

Firm

- Policy on appointments and advice
- Delineation between role of Coaches and the Committee

Consistent

- Objective umpire selections
- Building relationships with external stakeholders
- Umpire accreditation
- Use of technology

Expectations

- Represent the panel as a united group.
- Be supportive of your fellow umpires.
- Keep a positive attitude.
- Be respectful to all umpires, the Coaches, Committee Members, BLGFA, players, officials, spectators, and everyone involved in the game.
- Please raise any issues and concerns respectfully with the Committee and Coaches
- Unwarranted personal remarks and attacks against Umpires, the Coaches, Committee or Panel are not acceptable, and complaints will be investigated as per the Grievance Policy.
- Deliberate undermining of the Coaches, the Committee, Umpires Panel and the BLGFA will not be tolerated under any circumstances.
- Disputes between members should be kept private and are to be mediated per the Grievance Policy.

BLGUA Grievance Policy

1. The member who is aggrieved approaches the other party in attempt to resolve the matter privately and respectfully.
2. If Step 1 is not possible, the aggrieved member submits a written grievance via email to the BLGUA Secretary. If the Secretary is involved in the grievance, they will refer the grievance to another member of the BLGUA Committee.
3. The Secretary / BLGUA Committee will establish an Independent Panel to investigate the grievance. The Independent Panel will consist of three BLGUA Committee Members who are not involved in the grievance being investigated.
4. The Independent Panel will notify all parties involved of the grievance investigation.
5. All parties will have the opportunity to provide a written statement regarding the grievance to the Independent Panel.
6. The Independent Panel will distribute each written statement to the alternate party. Notice of a Hearing will be provided, with the Hearing to be held as soon as practicable, with adequate time for all parties to prepare for the Hearing.
7. The Hearing will occur, consisting of the Independent Panel and all parties involved. Minutes of Hearing will be recorded by a member of the Independent Panel.
8. The Independent Panel will distribute the minutes and advise the final outcome of the Hearing in writing to all parties. At this stage the matter will be considered resolved.

Note: The aggrieved member reserves the right to withdraw their grievance at any stage of the Grievance Process.

Membership Fees 2025

Subscription Fees:

Adult Member: \$80.00

Junior Member: \$40.00

Financial Membership:

Adult Member: \$20.00

Junior Member: \$10.00

Associate Member: \$20.00

Insurance Fees:

Adult Member: \$19.00

Junior Member: \$9.50

Unless otherwise noted, your subscription fees, financial membership & insurance fees will be deducted from your pay.

The Umpires Week

- Monday:** If **unavailable for selection** you must notify the coaches before 6:00pm on the Monday night prior to any weekend.
- Officials HQ is the platform to note any unavailability. A hard copy of weekly selections will be available at training for any umpire to note future unavailability.
- Tuesday:** A **Draft** of the coming weeks appointments emailed by BLG Umpire Coordinator via email Notify Coaches if you are unable to fulfil your appointment.
- Wednesday:** Weekly **training night 6:30pm - 7:30pm**.
Check appointment/sdisplayed in change room.
- If you cannot attend training, SMS Jake Saunderson 0404 369 229 or Matt Patterson: 0432 745 865 before training starts.
- Lecture nights and a meal will occur after training on nominated training nights – refer to the Umpires Calendar.
- Thursday:** Updated FINAL appointments emailed via email, confirm via Officials HQ.
Junior (U9 and U11) appointments posted on BLGUA Facebook Page.
- Friday:** All appointments entered on BLGUA website and BLGUA Facebook Page.
- PLEASE NOTE:**
If you become unavailable for any appointment at short notice, let the coaches know.
- Saturday:** **Arrive at venue 45 minutes prior to match starting time.**
- If you make a Report/Yellow Card** – Advise the SANFL Football Operations Coordinator (Simon Purdue 0417 821 632) and BLG Umpire Coordinator (Matt Patterson 0432745865) by SMS or email within **2 hours** of your allocated matches completion if you have made a report.
- Yellow or Red Cards are to be recorded on Officials HQ and entered within **2 hours** of the conclusion of your allocated matches for the day.
- If Officials HQ is not available, please complete a report/yellow card form and a photograph of the Report Form/Yellow Card slip to be sent via text to Umpire Coordinator (Matt Patterson: 0432745 865) and SANFL Football Operations Coordinator Central Zone (Simon Purdue 0417 821 632).
- If you have any concerns regarding your appointed match e.g., condition of playing surface, spectator abuse email Matt Patterson to be appropriately followed up.
- A Grade Men's Football
- If there is an incident that umpires believe need to be investigated further but they are not satisfied that they witnessed a reportable incident, they may use Officials HQ as a referral for an investigation by the SANFL Operations
- Sunday:** Email Matt Patterson if the matches you umpired on Saturday/Sunday changed from the listed appointments sent via email or on the website. This will ensure you have been correctly paid for the matches you have umpired.
- Reports** – you will be notified by the SANFL Football Operations Coordinator if you are required to attend a tribunal hearing. Tribunals are held on Wednesday evenings at the Vine Inn, Nuriootpa.

Working with Children Check

- As an organisation that works with young people on the field, at training & around the grounds, we are required to hold specific clearances to be permitted to work with children.
- In previous years, several clearances were accepted, including DCSI Clearances, Police Checks, DHS Clearances, etc. However, from this season onwards, **only Working with Children Checks (WWCC) will be an accepted clearance to hold** to work with children within the BLGFA, and hence, train & umpire.
- All umpires aged **14 years or older** are **required to hold** a valid **Working with Children Check (WWCC)**. A WWCC is an assessment by the Department of Human Services (DHS) Screening Unit, to determine whether someone poses an unacceptable risk when working with children. This is **essential** for all umpires in the BLGUA. Other clearances are **no longer accepted**.
- If you currently hold a valid WWCC, you **must** provide your clearance details to the BLGUA Secretary and add your WWCC to Official HQ. If you do not hold a WWCC and are 14 years or older, **you must apply for a WWCC**. This can be completed online, relatively easily, on the DHS website: [Screening checks](#) on [SA.GOV.AU](#).
- As umpiring for the BLGUA is classified as a “hobby,” with no taxation payments required, the DHS classifies umpires as “volunteers.” This means you can complete a WWCC free of charge. **Ensure when you are applying for a WWCC online, you select “volunteer.”**
- It is important to note that **if you are 14 years of age or older and do not hold a WWCC, you will not be able to attend umpire training or umpire a football match**, until you obtain the clearance.
- If you are in a profession or volunteer in an organisation that already works with children, such as education, law enforcement, another footy club, etc., you will likely already hold a WWCC. If so and you are intending on umpiring in Season 2022, **please forward your WWCC to the Secretary**.
- If you do not currently hold a WWCC, please follow the link & instructions above to apply for one. Please note - it can take up to 2 weeks to process your WWCC application. It only takes approx. 15min to apply online.
- Remember, if you are not able to provide a WWCC, you will **not be able to attend training** or umpire matches. This is a legal requirement which we, as an organisation, are required to obey. If you have any questions whatsoever, regarding Working with Children Checks or how to apply, please let the Secretary know via email.

Match Day Times and Breaks

BLGFA Junior Competition

GRADE	START	FINISH	QTR LENGTH	BREAKS
U9	Games will start from 6:30pm – 9:30pm Friday or 8:30am – 9:30am Saturday		4 x 12 min	3 / 3 / 3-minute changeovers
U11			4 x 12 min	3 / 3 / 3-minute changeovers
U13			4 x 12 min	3 / 3 / 3-minute changeovers

BLGFA Men's Competition

GRADE	START	FINISH	QTR LENGTH	BREAKS
U15	9:45am	10:55am	4 x 15 min	3 / 3 / 3-minute changeovers
U17½	11:00am	12:30pm	4 x 20 min	3 / 3 / 3-minute changeovers
B	12:35pm	2:10pm	4 x 20 min	4 / 6 / 4-minute changeovers
A	2:30pm	4:50pm approx.	4 x 20 min (+ time on)	4 / 15 / 4-minute changeovers

BLGW Women's Competition

GRADE	START	FINISH	QTR LENGTH	BREAKS
U13	Games will start from 9:00am – 3:00pm Sunday in the order of U13 > U16 > SENIOR		4 x 12 min	3 / 3 / 3-minute changeovers
U16			4 x 12 min	3 / 3 / 3-minute changeovers
SENIOR			4 x 20 min	3 / 3 / 3-minute changeovers

For Under 15, Under 17½ and B Grade

Check with the timekeepers at half time and ask that the third and fourth quarters be of identical length so that the game is complete by the stated finishing time. Quarters may be shortened as a result.

Timekeepers for All Grades

The siren should be sounded to umpires and teams twice at 2 minutes and again once at 1 minute before the start of each quarter. Umpires should respond with a whistle signal to team huddles.

Coaches' Directives

Weekly Requirements

- Get to know your fellow umpires by attending training sessions regularly – attendance at training maybe reflected in umpire appointments each week.
- If for any reason you cannot attend training call or message Matt Patterson: 0432 745 865 or Jake Saunderson: 0404 369 229
- On occasions discussions with specific groups will be held after training
- Try to jog/train at least one other night during the week.
- Get into the habit of bringing your whistle to training sessions, it may be required.
- Feedback regarding umpiring performance may be discussed post-match/phone/email or at training.
- On occasions umpires may be asked to lead a particular training drill
- Any umpiring related incidents/selections/grievances shall be directed to the BLG Umpire Coordinator, Junior Coach and BLGUA President in writing via email only.

On Match Day

- Please arrive at your ground by half time of the game before your appointment
- Wear your BLGUA polo top, jumper and/or jacket and closed toe shoes.
- Always act in an appropriate manner on match day, we all need to uphold the good name of the BLGUA Umpiring Panel
- If you are running late to your match, call one of your fellow umpires you are umpiring with.
- If you find any hazards on the ground, inform the home club ASAP.
- Introduce yourself to the team's coaches between half and 3/4 time of the game before if practical.

- Allow yourself plenty of time to get ready and prepare accordingly.
- Remain at the venue until half time of the game after yours in case another umpire becomes injured, and you are required to sub-in for them
- Double check all paperwork is completed on Officials HQ (i.e., best, and fairest votes, report forms etc.)
- Record any incidents for your game (i.e., poor ground markings, abuse, one team not starting on time at the end of each quarter, inappropriate behavior by coaches, officials etc.)
- After the game, please ensure that you have:
 - Team Sheets
 - Goal Umpire Cards **signed**.
 - Best and Fairest Votes completed and signed.
 - Reported Players (original to be left with above paperwork)
- It is the home club's responsibility to ensure that all paperwork is collected from the umpires. All paperwork must be left at the ground with an official of the home team-

UMPIRE SUPPORT

We acknowledge that there are physical, mental and social challenges for all umpires combined with personal and life pressures. To support our umpires, we have dedicated BLGUA committee members for welfare issues who have completed mental health first aid accredited training and can be approached as alternates to coaching members. Contact persons are Rob Polito and Hudson Noack

To comply with child safety considerations a Child Safety Officer responsibility has been adopted by a member of the BLGUA committee, and any concerns or considerations can be forwarded to them. The Child Safety Officer is Randal Murch

Match Day Payments 2024

The following outlines the remuneration to be paid to umpires by the Barossa, Light and Gawler Football Association, Men's, Juniors & Women's (BLGW) games during Season 2023.

Minor Round Payments

(Entrance to ground with Umpires Season pass.)

	FIELD	BOUNDARY
A Grade	\$205	\$60 / \$85 (successful competency assessed umpires – see below)
Reserves (3 ump)	\$90	\$55 / \$70 (successful competency assessed umpires – see below)
Reserves (2 ump)	\$120	
Under 17½ (3 ump)	\$75	clubs to supply
Under 17½ (2 ump)	\$110	
Under 15	\$85	clubs to supply
Under 13	\$55	Not applicable
Under 11	\$40	Not applicable
Under 9	\$40	Not applicable
Seniors (BLGW)	\$105	Not applicable
Under 16's (BLGW)	\$85	Not applicable
Under 13's (BLGW)	\$55	Not applicable
Under 10's (BLGW)	Club	Not applicable

1st and 2nd Semi and Preliminary Finals Match Payments

(Entrance to ground with a Finals game day pass)

	FIELD	BOUNDARY
A Grade	\$225	\$95
Reserves	\$105	\$75
Under 17½	\$90	\$65
Under 15	\$90	\$60
Under 13	\$65	Not applicable
Seniors (BLGW)	\$110	\$50
Under 16's (BLGW)	\$90	Not applicable
Under 13's (BLGW)	\$60	Not applicable

Grand Final Match Payments

(Entrance to ground with a Finals game day pass)

	FIELD	BOUNDARY
A Grade	\$260	\$105
Reserves	\$120	\$90
Under 17½	\$105	\$75
Under 15	\$95	\$65
Under 13	\$75	\$50
Seniors (BLGW)	\$115	Not applicable
Under 16's (BLGW)	\$95	Not applicable
Under 13's (BLGW)	\$65	Not applicable

Match Payment during week commencing

	Payment Day	Date
Round 1,2,3	Monday	19 th May
Round 4,5,6,7	Monday	16 th June
Round 8,9,10,11	Monday	21 st July
Round 12,13,14,15	Monday	25 th August
Round 16,17,18	Monday	15 th September
Finals	Tuesday	7 th October

Payment

Trial matches will be set rates determined by the Coach and Committee each year (roughly 50% of normal rates) and will be paid cash at the ground on the day. Once the season begins, umpires will be paid monthly by EFT direct to umpire's bank accounts. All finals will be paid in a final instalment. If there are any discrepancies in pay, they should be addressed to the BLGUA Treasurer.

Boundary Umpires Competency Based Assessment

All boundary umpires who complete a competency-based assessment will receive an additional \$25 per game (B and A grade). The assessment covers different aspects of boundary umpiring including running, throw-ins, signals and centre square returns, and attitude. It is a key development opportunity for aspiring boundary umpires to push themselves and their abilities. For more information on the competency-based assessment, please contact the Junior Coach.

First-Time Umpires: Free Uniform

As a recruitment incentive, all first-time junior umpires will receive a uniform free of charge. The supplied uniform shall include a shirt, shorts, socks and sweatbands. To ensure the supply of free uniforms remains financially viable for the association, an \$80 refundable bond will be deducted from the first pay run for first-time umpires. The bond will be refunded in the next pay run after the first of the following:

1. The umpire completes six (6) weekly rounds of officiating.
2. The umpire returns the uniform, should they cease to participate.

Match Day Duties of Boundary Umpires

Their Role

The role of the boundary umpire on match day is to:

1. Be the sole judge of when a ball is out of bounds.
2. Throw the ball back into play, unless it was kicked or handballed out of bounds.
3. After each goal run the ball back to the field umpire at the centre of the ground
4. Monitor the centre square for infringements at centre bounces.
5. Collect the match day game ball at the end of the game and pass to the field umpire.

Sole Judge of when the Ball is Out of Bounds

The boundary umpire is the final judge of when the ball is touched out of bounds, last possession out of bounds or out on the full. Boundary umpires may seek advice from field and goal umpire before deciding. To be out of bounds the whole of the ball must be over the whole of the line or have hit the behind post after first touching the ground or having been touched by a player. If any portion of the ball is on or above the line, the ball is still in play.

Throw the Ball back into Play

When the boundary umpire signals that the ball is touched out of bounds, the field umpire should blow his whistle and direct the boundary umpire to throw the ball back into play. To keep the game moving the throw should be performed quickly and taken from the spot where the ball crossed the line.

After each Goal take the Ball back to the Field Umpire

Once a goal has been scored the boundary umpires should bring the ball back to the centre as quickly as possible without waiting for the ball to be kicked or handballed to them and give it to the field umpire.

Police the Centre Square for Infringements at Centre Bounces

At the commencement of each quarter and after a goal has been scored the centre square is locked down, no player (other than the 4 initial players) or team official shall enter the centre square from the time the central umpire commences his approach to throw the ball up and until the ball leaves the umpire's hand. The boundary umpire is to blow his/her whistle and alert the officiating umpire by calling out the name of the team who breached this rule.

Last Possession Out of Bounds

When the Ball that is intentionally kicked or handballed then completely crosses the boundary line without being touched by another player or hits the behind post without being touched is then deemed as to be Last Possession Out of Bounds and a free kick to the opposing team. The only exception to the rule is when the opposing team is intentionally attempting to shepherd the ball out of play.

Out on the Full

The ball must be kicked and then land completely outside the line without bouncing or being touched by any other player (anywhere from knee up) or hits the behind post on the full without being touched or passes directly over the top of the behind post.

Signals

The boundary umpire signals are quite simple. They are as follows:

- Touched Out of bounds – blow whistle extends, one arm straight up and with other hand tap the extended arm three times.
- Last possession Out of Bounds – blow whistle and extend one arm straight up.
- Out of bounds on the full – blow whistle with both hands near mouth and extend both arms out sideways (shoulder height)
- Centre square infringement – blow whistle and point in the opposite direction to that of the team to receive the free kick is kicking (use voice to tell the field umpire who entered the square).

Positioning

- Make every attempt to always be "side on" to the play.
- Whenever there is a set shot at goal a boundary umpire should endeavor to be behind the point post
- At the start of play or after a goal is kicked, be in position on the corner of the centre square to control two sides of the square.
- Always look along the line and not at it. This allows you to see if the ball is completely outside the line or whether part of it is sitting on the line.
- If play comes towards you then back away from the play while still looking along the line.
- When the ball is on the other side of the ground you don't have to run all the way around your side of

the line. Creep into the edge of the centre square until play moves back in your direction.

Game Plan

A boundary umpire should approach each game with the same plan. That plan should include:

- Making correct decisions by using positive and assertive signals
- Running to the best of your ability
- Reading the game
- Communicating with fellow umpires in a positive manner

Management of the Game

As a boundary umpire you have the power to report a player for reportable incidents. As this is one of your responsibilities you should always be alert and aware of what the players are doing around you. Your primary focus is the ball. If you witness any player or official committing a reportable offence, write down the details as soon as practicable. During the next break in play or quarter time break, discuss this with the field umpire before going to the player with the field umpire and informing him that he has been reported.

Leaving the playing surface

No umpires are to leave the playing surface except for the purpose of entering or leaving the field of play during a quarter time or half time break to use amenities.

Umpires **are not** to leave the field of play to retrieve footballs. **This is for the safety of all umpires to reduce the risk of personal harm from vehicles, spectators or other hazards outside the field of play.**

Duties When Reporting Players

Laws of the game:

<https://play.afl/clubhelp/resources/laws-game#article-0>

Law 22.2 outlines infringements for which a player or players may be reported.

The 'Order Off Rule' explicitly outlines the infringements in detail and what action should be taken.

If it is necessary to report a player or players, the following action must be taken:

- Stop the game (whistle blown to call time off) – if appropriate – remember where the ball and play was at the time, any Field Umpire **ONLY** can stop the game.
- Obtain the player's number – **NEVER INTENTIONALLY MAN-HANDLE A PLAYER**
- Advise the player of your intention to report – "I am reporting you for (e.g., charging)" If another player is involved, such as striking offence – "I am reporting you for striking No. ___ of (opposing club)"
- If another player is involved (such as striking) you must obtain his number as well and advise him "I am reporting player No. ___ of (club) for striking you" Make sure that the player understands the report has been made
- If any player or players involved with the report fails or is incapable of acknowledging the report, advise the captain prior to the start of the next quarter.
- Write down **ALL** appropriate details and **DO NOT** get drawn into a discussion with any players or officials about the incident.
- Only re-start the game when YOU are ready, ensuring all umpires are in position before you re-start the game.
- If you report a player, you **must award a free kick** (where the ball is or where the infringement occurred, whichever is the greatest penalty) and a **25m penalty** against that player.
- **If you make a Report/Yellow Card** – Advise the SANFL Football Operations Coordinator (Simon Purdue 0417 821 632) and BLG Umpire Coordinator (Matt Patterson 0432745865) by SMS or email within **2 hours** of your allocated matches completion if you have made a **report**.
- Yellow or Red Cards are to be recorded on Officials HQ and entered within **2 hours** of the conclusion of your allocated matches for the day.
- If Officials HQ is not available, please complete a report/yellow card form and a photograph of the Report Form/Yellow Card slip to be sent via text to Umpire Coordinator (Matt Patterson: 0432745 865) and SANFL Football Operations Coordinator Central Zone (Simon Purdue 0417 821 632).
- If you have any concerns regarding your appointed match e.g., condition of playing surface, spectator abuse email Matt Patterson to be appropriately followed up.
- **DO NOT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES DISCUSS THE REPORT WITH PLAYERS OR OFFICIALS**
- If more than one umpire reports the same offence, each umpire must notify the player(s) of his/her intention to report, each reporting umpire must be noted on the Officials HQ report.
- It is the responsibility of any reporting umpire to make themselves available for the tribunal hearing in consultation with the SANFL Football Operations Coordinator.
- Before Tribunal night and as soon as possible after the game, write/type a brief, accurate, factual account of the report, have multiple copies made for the commissioners.

Checklist for Reporting Players

- Use this section as a reference to complete the Reported Player Sheet.

Have You:

- Only included each reported player separately on Officials HQ.
- Selected the correct player
- Selected the most appropriate alleged breach of the laws of Australian Football
- Detailed the correct quarter when the incident occurred.
- Provided a brief specific statement of the details of the charge
- Legibly written your Christian name and surname in the "Officiating Umpire" Section
- Satisfied that everything on the report sheet is correct
- Had another umpire review your report before submitting it to Officials HQ.

If Officials HQ fails – Hard Copy Reports Once Completed:

- The original (white) copy must be left with all other paperwork for the day.
- The other copy goes to the club concerned and keep one for yourself (as per the name at the bottom of each form).
- **It is the clubs' responsibility to collect forms from the change rooms.**

Tribunal Hearings

If a tribunal hearing is to take place, it will be held at the Vine Inn, Nuriootpa. This hearing will be conducted on a Wednesday evening at a time determined by the SANFL Football Operations Coordinator. The SANFL Football Operations Coordinator will notify umpires of these arrangements. If a junior umpire, field, or boundary, has a tribunal hearing a senior umpire will attend the hearing with them.

At the Tribunal

Give evidence in a clear and concise manner, you must have a written statement of the events (given beach commissioner and offending club) that will help you tell exactly what happened (see Appendix 1).

Order Off Rule

General Guidelines

- Only field umpires officiating in a game may affect the order off rule.
- Free kicks, and 25m penalties are more appropriate for undisciplined actions which do not pose a threat to the game.
- The yellow card is to be used for a player who is considered a threat to the game, it is not a method of disciplining the player.
- Threatening behavior towards an umpire is to be considered as being a threat to the game, a report and send off WILL be implemented.
- Field Umpires are to reserve red card send off for players who constitute a danger to the game.
- A Player who is reported by a field umpire **must** be ordered from the ground, issued either yellow or red card, this will be indicated by the field umpire displaying a YELLOW/RED CARD to each Team Manager
- If the field umpire considers an offence to be non- aggravated, they may issue the player a Yellow Card, the field umpire may, at their discretion, report the offending player.
- In the event of a field umpire using the Order Off rule for a player twice in the same game, this will be signaled by a YELLOW CARD, followed by a RED CARD, and the player is no longer able to return to the field for the remainder of the match, this player will also be reported.
- If a player is RED CARDED, they cannot be replaced for a period of 10 minutes.
- Players, when informed of an Order Off, shall immediately leave the field through the interchange area, umpires do not need to accompany players to the interchange area, move close enough to the interchange steward for him/her to acknowledge a card has been given.
- In the event of a player failing or refusing to leave the ground or willfully wasting time when ordered off, they shall be reported for misconduct.
- If this player continues to refuse to leave the ground the captain is to be advised that this continuing conduct may result in the forfeiting of the game.

Special Notes

- If a player gets 3 YELLOW CARDS in one season, a player will attract a 2-match suspension issued by the BLGFA.
- Time for the Ten-minute Order Off shall commence when the offending player crosses the Interchange Line
- The Ten-minute Order Off is for playing time and shall not include quarter time breaks.
- Time on in ALL grades, shall be signaled by the Field Umpires during the implementation of the Order Off rule.
- Team Managers are to record the times of an Order Off and are to be the sole judge of the time expiration.

Form to Complete

- If you YELLOW CARD or RED CARD any player during a game, you must complete the Pink “Details of Send Off Rule” form

A photo of the “Details of Send Off Rule” must be sent via SMS to the Senior Coach and BLGFA Secretary by 6pm on the day of the match.

Media

Umpires are not to speak with nor provide commentary to any media on any umpiring or football-based incident concerning the BLGFA. Any media on umpiring or football-based incidents will be facilitated through the BLGFA Secretary. This practice is based on policy advice from the SANFL and BLGFA. Refer any media interest in any umpiring or football incident in the first instance to the BLGFA President or BLG Umpire Coordinator.

Special Playing Conditions

Player Numbers in Under 15's and 17½'s

In the Under 15's and 17½'s competitions, if one team has less than 18 players, the coaches are to agree to begin the game with the same number of players **ON** the field. E.g.: One team has 15 players; therefore, the other team will play only 15 players on the field but may use the other five as interchange.

NOTE: The depleted team may “borrow” some players from the opposition.

When can a Game Begin?

A minimum of 14 players constitutes the official number to start a game. If these numbers are not available a forfeit will be registered. Clubs may wish to have a scratch match-this is possible, but no best and fairest players are required.

Boundary Umpires

Each participating club is to provide **TWO** boundary umpires. These persons are to wear a club or BLGFA green top and can wear their club's normal football socks and shorts. Clubs are also to provide each of the boundary umpires with a whistle. The boundary umpire has said whether the ball is out of bounds or out of bounds on the full. However, if the person does not have an idea and the field umpire saw the incident, they may be told what to signal.

Goal Umpires

Only one person must be behind the goals at any one time. Field umpires must make sure that the club goal umpire is of an age suitable to make decisions.

Officials, Coaches and Runners

Field umpires must make sure that all officials remain in the same area during the match. If a coach's box is at the ground, all officials should be in the box. Water Carriers – each club to provide a maximum of four (4) water carriers of suitable age.

Uniform Policy

Match Day Uniform

The official on-field uniform will be worn by all umpires. As part of the match day uniform all umpires are required to wear a casual polo shirt, fleece jumper, or dress shirt.

Tracksuit jackets are optional, but umpires are encouraged to purchase one, especially if you anticipate umpiring at A-Grade level and/or umpiring finals.

Grey warm up jackets are only to worn onto the field prior to the commencement of the game at half time. Grey warm up jackets are not to be worn to or from the grounds.

There is an expectation that all senior grade field umpires obtain a gray warm up jacket. All umpires aspiring to do finals will be expected to wear the grey warm up jacket onto the field in the major round.

All items are available through our Umpire's Shop. Orders to be placed through the Uniform Coordinators (money can be deducted from match payments, if required).

New uniforms will be purchased at the commencement of every three seasons (the next uniform purchase is due at the start of Season 2025).

Hot Weather Training Policy

The following recommendations have been adapted from Sports Medicine Australia Guidelines. They are not binding, but the Barossa, Light & Gawler Umpires Association (BLGUA) reminds all parties that they must act responsibly. A common-sense approach is encouraged, in conjunction with utilising the most accurate and up to date information available when making decisions to protect the well-being of participants and officials.

The BLG Umpire Coordinator shall check the forecast temperature for Gawler, South Australia within **24 hours before the scheduled commencement of training**. Information should be obtained from the Australian Bureau of Meteorology (www.bom.gov.au). In the instance of conflicting information, information obtained directly from www.bom.gov.au will be considered the most accurate.

Based on the forecast temperatures, the following action is recommended:

26°C - 30°C | Risk of Heat Illness: Moderate

- Modify early pre-season training.
- Reduce intensity and duration of session.
- Increase frequency and length of breaks.
- Ensure adequate water supplies are available.

31°C - 35°C | Risk of Heat Illness: High – Very High

- Limit intensity of training
- Maximum training duration of 60 minutes
- Increase frequency and length of breaks.
- Ensure adequate water supplies are available.

At or above 36°C | Risk of Heat Illness: Extreme

- Training cancelled.

If training is deemed to be cancelled by the BLG Umpire Coordinator, this information is to be relayed out to Panel Members, via an email and published on the BLGUA's social media accounts.

If the forecast temperature is set to decrease prior to the commencement of training (i.e., a cool change is incoming), the BLG Umpire Coordinator may still wish to proceed with training, following the recommended actions above.

Adapted from the SANFL Community Club Weather Policy

Life Membership

Life Membership is awarded to Members for their outstanding service, over a long period of time, to the Barossa, Light & Gawler Umpires Association.

Life Membership entitles the member to benefits, without paying Financial Membership subscriptions for their lifetime.

Life Members Benefits

- Free Financial Membership, which entitles Life Members to voting rights at Annual General Meetings
- 1 x complimentary tickets to the BLGUA Grand Final Dinner & Presentations
- Invitation to all BLGUA events, including BBQ Lecture Nights
- Name listed on the BLGUA Life Members Honour Board

To qualify for and receive Life Membership with the Association, a person must have had a minimum of fifteen (15) years' service to umpiring with the Barossa, Light and Gawler Football Association, Barossa, Light and Gawler Women's League, Gawler and Districts Football League or Barossa and Light Football Association.

A year's service to umpiring may include but not be limited to:

- Umpiring for a year with a commitment to officiating in a minimum of ten (10) games per season.
- Given service to the above-mentioned association's and/or leagues in roles other than umpiring by holding positions such as president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, coach, treasurer or committee member.

Additional criteria to be considered are that the person should not bring the Association or their fellow umpires into disrepute.

In the year of being eligible for Life Membership based on the above criteria, the secretary of the association will bring forward the person's name to the committee by the 31st day of July, so that they can deliberate on the granting of Life Membership. If successful, the Life Membership will be presented at an end of year function.

An unsuccessful Life Membership submission will be automatically reconsidered the following year by the committee. If a person believes they should have received Life Membership in a given year, they can submit a letter in writing to the secretary of the association within fourteen (14) days of the end of year function for consideration in the following year.

Adapted from the BLGUA Constitution

Appendix 1 – Example BLGUA Report for Tribunal

Barossa, Light and Gawler Football Association – Umpire's Report

Details of the Report:

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Under Law:

Nature of Game:

Consequences of the Incident:

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Describe the Incident:

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