

Junior Umpire Coach Guidelines

What is an Umpire Coach?

'An individual who works in cooperation with an umpire with the prime aim of helping that person to raise the level of their capability as an umpire.'

What is the purpose of this Umpire Coaching programme?

This umpire coaching programme is fundamentally focused on guided discovery, with the coach supporting the umpire to learn about the rules, their role, strengths and areas to be improved. This programme is not about evaluating the umpire.

Key Attributes of an Umpire Coach:

- Strong understanding of the rules
- Builds positive and meaningful relationships
- Are effective communicators
- Apply a participant centred approach
- Are continuous learners

Key Messages to Reinforce:

- Make sure the game is FUN, SAFE and FAIR
- Remember to keep thinking, moving and communicating

Role of the Umpire Coach

1. Build a positive relationship with each umpire you're working with.
 - a. If you can, chat to the umpire pre-match and let them know that you'll be observing part of their match
2. Observe and record notes on each umpire
 - a. Focus on recording 'facts' as opposed to opinion based comments
 - b. Keep things brief and focus on important learning opportunities
3. Support the umpire pre, during and post-match (when appropriate)
 - a. Check in pre match and ask how they're feeling or if they have any questions
 - b. If possible, check in at half time and encourage discussion on the first half
 - c. Post-match, make sure you conduct a review if it's their last game of the day
 - i. If not, give them a quick tip or compliment about something you saw them do well
4. Conduct a post-match review and help the umpire identify 2-3 SMART goals (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant and Time Based)

**This may take 5-10 minutes, so only conduct a full review after the umpire's last match*

- i. Start positive – compliment the umpire(s) on their efforts and/or things you saw them do well (briefly)
- ii. Ask them how they thought the match went and fill in the google form match reflection accordingly
- iii. Ask open ended questions and encourage the umpire to think and provide a detailed response
- iv. Provide the umpire(s) with a maximum of 2-3 key points of feedback based off what you saw. These key points can include strengths/things they did well
- v. Thank the umpire for their time and encourage them to work towards their identified SMART goals in their upcoming matches