

IN BLACK & WHITE

THE JOURNAL OF THE NSW CRICKET UMPIRES' AND SCORERS' ASSOCIATION



THIS ISSUE'S HIGHLIGHTS:



Tucker Reaches ODI
Century - 16

Polosak Shield
Debut - 17

Cricket Confirmed for
2028 Olympics - 20

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CHAIR'S WELCOME

MARK HUGHES

Dear Members,

Welcome to the December edition of **In Black and White**.

It feels like only yesterday that the season started, perhaps it's because I missed the first two rounds, but there has been plenty of cricket and NSWCUA members have received wonderful opportunities in India, across the country and all over our state.

It is so encouraging to see members making debuts, either at the entry level to the game or as they progress through pathways, and members achieving personal milestones. This edition of **In Black and White** will no doubt highlight these achievements.

I also want to encourage our 'foot soldiers' who go about their work, week in, week out, working hard in lower grades, often unnoticed, who do a great job in officiating in matches, sometimes on their own, without praise or recognition, to whom we can't thank often enough as they serve local associations as well as upholding the spirit of cricket.

If this strikes a chord with you, I want to say a big thank you to you especially for all you do and to encourage you to continue on in your work – you are the lifeblood of our association and know that you are as much a valued member of our association as anyone.

I trust all members enjoyed the Christmas season and wish you all the very best as we move head into 2024.



Mark Hughes presents Leone Mizzi with a representative match certificate // Steven K Smith

EXECUTIVE OFFICER UPDATE

TROY PENMAN

Dear Members and Affiliated Associations,

On behalf of the Board and Management I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you well for the festive period.

Your support of and commitment to the Association in 2023 is greatly appreciated by all. Our aim is to ensure an enjoyable and rewarding experience for all with the Association. 2023 has seen the Association continue to flourish and progress.

This year marked the 110th anniversary of the establishment of the Association. A dinner was held on the Saturday night of the Annual Convention to mark the occasion and it was pleasing to have over 100 members and guests in attendance to celebrate.

All members who have renewed their membership for 2023-24 should have received their free 110-year anniversary Association Polo shirt as a way for Management and the Board to say thank you.

Whilst it is holiday time for people in general, we have many members involved in matches both in NSW and across the country. Country Cricket representative programs are in full swing which provide wonderful opportunities for members to officiate quality cricket fixtures in many regional areas. For those members travelling significant distances thank you for your willingness and dedication, please do travel safe on the roads.

The Association is also heavily represented in the International and BBL space over the festive period and we look forward to seeing members representing the Association with distinction on TV.

I'd like to highlight Toni Lorraine and Ian Wright who have been appointed to score the New Year's Test at the SCG.

It has been a busy year for the Association with things continuing to return to the new normal following interrupted years due to COVID. Positively we've continued to conduct our Ordinary General Meetings in a hybrid fashion ensuring access for all members. We are conscious of providing the best online experience for these meetings and are working on streamlining the audio and visual aspects in 2024. We've also seen the successful return to a full season of face-to-face training courses.

The Association's Annual Dinner and Awards Presentation has been confirmed for April 13 at the Bankstown Sports Club. More details will be circulated in the New Year to allow members to register, purchase raffle tickets and book discounted accommodation. We look forward to seeing many members and guests in attendance. I'd like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the hard work of the Management this year.



Bede, Ben, Claire, and Darren have all gone above and beyond to service prospective members through their onboarding to the Association and members with enquiries and ensuring they are kept abreast of educational resources and training opportunities.

Bede Sajowitz has had an outstanding year, working tirelessly to promote the Association through social media channels and providing exceptional service to the membership. His work in managing OfficialsHQ whilst being the sole contact for NSW has an incredible undertaking and one that he should be very proud of. His work has been recognised by Cricket Australia and he is part of a steering committee to help other states with their use of the platform as they are a season behind NSW.

He also brought up 5 years with Cricket NSW in the latter part of 2023 and we are grateful for his continued efforts in servicing the membership. A wonderful resource for all members, Bede plays a vital role in maintaining Association records and spirit among the membership.

Ben Treloar has continued to lead the way in providing incredible expertise to members and prospective members alike throughout the year. His knowledge of the Laws of Cricket and their application is second to none. He has overseen our training program which has directly led to 118 new members being welcomed into the Association in calendar year.

Ben's work in circulating monthly Laws of Cricket questions, providing captains comments and marks along with observer reports to NSW Men's Premier Cricket umpires in a timely fashion has ensured that members are kept up to date with information that will assist with their development. Ben along with Claire Polosak delivered a wonderful in person Convention in Sydney (Panthers and Cricket Central) over the weekend of August 26-27 which provided for an excellent start to the 2023-24 season for those in attendance.

Claire Polosak in her role as Umpire Educator / Female Engagement has done an outstanding job in facilitating Level 1 Community Officiating courses across the state. These courses provide the basic umpiring information to prospective members and the flow-on effect to the NSWCUA Level 2 course is substantial. Claire's continued work in the female space is vital in increase in active umpires across the State this year. Claire was instrumental in facilitating the Convention prior to the 2023-24 season and is an educator of the highest quality.

Darren Goodger is thanked for his guidance and assistance throughout the year. His work as State Umpiring Manager continues to lead the way in Australia and it's no coincidence that New South Wales is well represented in the Cricket Australia umpiring pathway. He is a keen supporter, advocate and sounding board for the Management Team.

To our Committees and Office-Bearers thank you for the efforts this year. You volunteer our most precious commodity and that is time. You give back to the Association and members through your efforts and we are grateful. Volunteers are what keeps the Association strong.



Allan Owens and Bob McGregor with captains ahead of Allan's Men's First Grade debut

To the executive members of all affiliates, thank you for the contribution you make to umpiring and for all you do regarding governance and administration in your association. To our largest affiliate – Sydney Shires Cricket Umpires' Association. The support of the SSCUA is crucial to be able to service all Sydney Cricket Association men's matches with two umpires. This is a key piece of the CNSW strategy. To Stephen Clements, Stephen Blomfield, and the team at the SSCUA we offer our gratitude.

Appreciation is extended to the Directors of the NSWCUA Board for their guidance, advice and support. They act with the best interests of NSWCUA at the forefront of their thinking. The Directors are supportive of the Management Team and their endeavours to develop and improve the Association. The leadership and counsel of Mark Hughes as Board Chair has been greatly appreciated.

NSWCUSA remains in a sound financial position, we thank Laurie Borg for his prudent management of the Association's finances.

We hope members who may not be officiating over the festive period are able to relax and recharge the batteries during this time. Management staff will be taking some time off over the festive period so you may receive an out of office message. If the matter is urgent, please contact an alternative staff member.

Once again thank you for everything you do to support the Association and to serve cricket, across the vast state of New South Wales. Your commitment to the game is amazing. Our team at Cricket NSW humbly and sincerely offers its thanks to you.

Best wishes for the festive season and the start of the New Year.



Jeff Egan and Phil Rainger during the Country Championships

STATE UMPIRING MANAGER UPDATE

DARREN GOODGER

Claire Polosak | First Class Debut

A dream doesn't become a reality through magic; it takes sweat, determination, hard work and quality performance.

Claire Polosak became the 87th member of New South Wales Cricket Umpires' and Scorers' Association to umpire a men's first-class match when she walked onto the WACA Ground to officiate the round 5 Sheffield Shield fixture between Western Australia and South Australia on November 15. Claire was partnered on field by Sam Nogajski, with David Gilbert will be the match referee.

Claire joined NSWCUSA in 2005 and was upgraded to principal member in 2021, recognising her outstanding service to the Association and to cricket umpiring in New South Wales. Claire was elevated to the Cricket Australia Supplementary Umpire Panel in 2014-15, remaining a member of this panel today. She is also a member of the International Panel of ICC Development Umpires.



Claire has enjoyed a wonderful umpiring career so far, some of her on field highlights being:

- Women's Test Match | Australia v India | 2021-22
- Men's ODI | Namibia v Oman | 2018-19 (Final, ICC World Cricket League Division 2)
- Two Women's World Cup tournaments, including a semi-final appointment in 2022
- 29 WODIs since making her debut in 2016-17 in the Australia v South Africa series
- 12 Men's T20Is since making her debut in 2022-23 in the World Cup Qualifier in Vanuatu
- Four WT20 World Cup tournaments, including semi-final appointments in 2018, 2020 and 2023
- 52 WT20Is since making her debut in 2015-16 in the World Cup Qualifier in Thailand
- 6 List A Men's matches in the CA One Day Domestic Cup since making her debut in 2017-18 in the New South Wales v Cricket Australia XI fixture
- 5 List A Women's matches in the WNCL since making her debut in 2015-16, including WNCL finals in 2016-17 and 2020-21
- 2 BBL matches
- 39 WBBL matches, including 3 WBBL finals
- U19 Men's Test Match | Australia v Sri Lanka | 2016-17
- U19 Men's ODI | Australia v Sri Lanka | 2016-17
- 9 Men's State Second XI fixtures
- 145 Men's Premier Cricket matches, including 51 in first grade

Claire has also been TV Umpire for 22 international fixtures and a total of 46 CA domestic fixtures in the One Day Cup, BBL and WBBL. She is an exceptional TV Umpire, one of the most highly regarded in Australia, being appointed TV Umpire for the Bronze Medal match at the 2022 Commonwealth Games.

Claire has so much umpiring experience to draw on and this appointment to umpire a first-class match was pleasing recognition for her application, commitment to excellence and consistent

performances in recent seasons. Claire has displayed outstanding attitude, character, discipline, integrity, professionalism and teamwork. She was ready, this debut was richly deserved.

In addition to her umpiring Claire is an exemplary employee at CNSW working in umpire education and female engagement in the Cricket Performance Squad, enthusiastic about recruiting and training umpires and serving the NSWCUA and CNSW to the highest possible standard. Claire always does her best for our members and to improve the Association. She regularly goes above and beyond in supporting the team, being such a valued member. We all appreciate and respect Claire's knowledge, contribution and the positive difference she makes. Claire is an inspiration in our Association to all, particularly those umpires in our ranks who are female with whom she has worked so closely in her seven years as a CNSW staff member. Claire has been described as a pioneer as a match official, she is also every bit the pioneer in her work in supporting, developing and serving others in such a specific space. Claire provides outstanding example. Due to her dedication, there were 493 individual match appointments for our female umpires in season 2022-23.

Our New South Wales Cricket Community may be proud of Claire. She is an exceptional person and umpire; authentic, humble, real, living above the line behaviours in all she undertakes.

Claire's appointment to make her first-class debut was wonderful recognition for her, but also for CNSW which has invested so heavily and positively in umpiring and in the female officiating space. We thank CNSW for the sincerity and depth of this investment.

Eloise Sheridan from South Australia also made her first-class debut as an umpire in the same Sheffield Shield round, standing in the Victoria v Queensland fixture at the MCG starting on November 16.

NSWCUSA member Gerard Abood partnered Eloise on debut and was an exceptional support to her, with Bob Parry the match referee. We acknowledge Eloise on her appointment, offer congratulations to her. To Sarah Fry (State Umpiring Manager, SACA) and Craig Thomas (State Umpire Coach, SACA) we also offer our congratulations, both do a wonderful job supporting match officials in their respective roles at the South Australian Cricket Association.

Returning to Claire, congratulations to her on making such a strong debut. It is wonderful to see C A Polosak on the first-class honour board in the Ted Wykes Room at the Sydney Cricket Board. It sits there deservedly and comfortably with all others.

Christina Matthews, CEO Western Australian Cricket Association, presented Claire with her first-class umpiring certificate and a memento from Cricket Australia.

Gerard Abood | 100 BBL Matches

The following note was shared with CNSW Staff on Boxing Day:

Hello Everyone

Compliments of the Christmas season to all.

There is a special and significant umpiring milestone at the Sydney Cricket Ground this evening with Gerard Abood becoming the first umpire to stand in 100 BBL fixtures. Gerard will be joined on field by Paul Wilson, Claire Polosak is the TV Umpire and Sharad Patel the Reserve Umpire for the match between Sydney Sixers and Melbourne Stars. All four umpires being members of the NSWCUA.

This is a wonderful achievement by Gerard in an umpiring career with so many highlights. Gerard has umpired:

- 1 Test Match | Australia Women v England Women at North Sydney Oval in 2017
- 11 One Day Internationals | 2 men's and 9 women's
- 20 T20 Internationals | 9 men's and 11 women's
- 81 men's First-Class matches
- 58 men's List A matches
- 8 Belvidere Cup finals

In addition to his century of on field BBL appearances, Gerard has also been TV Umpire on 36 occasions in the BBL including for two finals.

Gerard joined the National Umpire Panel in season 2009-10 and is now in his 15th year of service.

In what has been a remarkable contribution to Australian Cricket, Gerard has also umpired six national finals on field:

- Sheffield Shield | 2017-18
- One Day Cup | 2019-20 / 2020-21 / 2022-23
- BBL | 2018-19 / 2019-20

He has also umpired an additional 11 BBL finals series matches on field and umpired first-class cricket in India, New Zealand and South Africa as part of umpire exchange programs organised by Cricket Australia.

Gerard is a member of the Cricket Australia Umpire Leadership Group, elected by his peers. A measure of the respect he has earned and the esteem in which he is held.

Gerard Abood is an outstanding person and umpire. Respected by his colleagues and the players for his knowledge, professionalism and ability, Gerard is one of the most trusted umpires in Australia. He is a strong match official going about his work with an emphasis on the umpiring team, and with character and integrity. Gerard has also made an exemplary contribution to cricket away from the field being a long serving Assistant Code of Conduct Commissioner for the Sydney Cricket Association, being very generous with his time and expertise.

Umpiring 100 BBL matches is an exceptional milestone and achievement, with Gerard having plenty more in front of him. We offer congratulations to Gerard wishing him and the team the very best for an enjoyable and successful match.

Paul Wilson

Having completed his duties at the ICC World Cup in India in November, NSWCUA member Paul Wilson quietly and humbly retired from international umpiring. He continues to umpire domestic cricket in Australia.

Paul enjoyed an exceptional umpiring career at international level which included:

- 13 Men's Test Matches (8 field and 5 TV)
- 1 Women's Test
- 61 Men's ODIs (43 field and 18 TV)
- 13 Women's ODIs (8 field and 5 TV)
- 40 Men's T20Is (26 field and 14 TV)
- 1 Women's T20I

Paul officiated at six ICC World Cup tournaments:

- UK 2017 Women's ODI WC
- UK 2019 Men's ODI WC
- UAE 2021 Men's T20 WC
- New Zealand 2022 Women's ODI WC
- Australia 2022 Men's T20 WC
- India 2023 Men's ODI WC

In all, Paul umpired on field a total of 29 ICC World Cup matches.

At Test level he officiated at Lord's (England v Ireland 2023) and in the Australian summers of 2020-21 (Australia v India) and 2021-22 (Australia v England) his performances were outstanding.

We offer congratulations to Paul on an excellent international umpiring career.

He has been an exemplary ambassador for NSWCUA and for Australian Umpiring. A person, umpire and leader of the highest quality and integrity, so respected by his colleagues for his ability, humility, composure, common sense, willingness to share experience, honesty and teamwork, Paul Wilson may be proud of his international umpiring career. We wish him the very best in his future endeavours in our game.

Kingsgrove Sports T20 Cup Final

Congratulations to Troy Penman and Claire Polosak on their appointment to umpire the T20 Cup Final in which Randwick Petersham defeated Gordon by six wickets at Coogee Oval.

WBBL Finals Series | New South Wales Umpires Selected

We were pleased to see NSWCUA represented in the WBBL finals series.

Eliminator (WACA Ground)

Sharad Patel | TV Umpire

Troy Penman | Reserve Umpire

Challenger (WACA Ground)

Troy Penman | Field

Claire Polosak | TV Umpire

Sharad Patel | Reserve Umpire

Final (Adelaide Oval)

Claire Polosak | Field

Troy Penman | TV Umpire

Congratulations to each on their respective appointments.

Umpires for Men's Country Championships

Congratulations to the umpires, all members of the Country Umpire Representative Panel, who were appointed to the Men's Country Championships:



Northern Pool (Tamworth) | Dave Cullen, Graeme Glazebrook, Greg Jones, Keiran Knight

Southern Pool (Orange) | Jeff Egan, Brenton Harrison, Murray Le Lievre, Phil Rainger

In the Men's Country Championships Final Newcastle defeated Central Coast by seven wickets with the match being played at No. 1 Sportsground (Newcastle). Congratulations to umpires Dave Cullen & Graeme Glazebrook and match referee Neil Findlay on their appointment.

Country T20 Bash Final (Women's)

Newcastle Blasters defeated Riverina Bullets by six wickets to win the Country T20 Bash Final played at Cricket Central. Umpires Lauren McGill and Elizabeth O'Dwyer are congratulated on their appointment and performance in the decider.

Country T20 Bash Final (Men's)

Greater Illawarra will play Riverina in the Country T20 Bash Final to be played at Sydney Showground at 1pm on January 17. This is a wonderful opportunity for our players and umpires to perform at a professional cricket venue in what is a curtain raiser event to the BBL fixture between Sydney Thunder and Melbourne Renegades. Congratulations to umpires Jeff Egan and Phil Rainger and match referee Neil Findlay on their appointment.

Bradman Cup

Congratulations to the umpires appointed to the Bradman Cup:

Northern Pool Carnival | Kempsey

Bill Battese, Bruce Baxter, Keiran Knight, Graham Rose

Southern Pool Carnival | Wagga Wagga

Jeff Egan, Graeme Glazebrook, Brenton Harrison, Murray Le Lievre

Carnival | Wollongong

Bruce Baxter, Peter Bridle, Dave Cullen, Ian Davidson, John De Lyall, Dave Grainger, Greg Heys, Steve Wade

The 4-day carnival will be held in Wollongong commencing January 8

Women's Country Championships U16

The 3-day carnival was played in Queanbeyan from December 19. Congratulations to the appointed umpires:

Dennis Chaplin, Katie Collins, Elisabeth Houston, Margaret Marshall, Lauren McGill, Leone Mizzi, Graham Moon, Manjinder Sandhu

Umpire Exchanges

We are pleased to advise of umpire exchanges with the Western Australian Cricket Association, Cricket Tasmania and Cricket Victoria.

Patrick Jackson enjoyed his experience umpiring a First Grade Men's Premier Cricket fixture in Perth between Willetton and Freemantle on December 9-10, standing with Jarryd Buscall who is a member of the State Umpire Panel in Western Australia. Feedback received from James Hewitt (WACA Umpire Coach and Talent Specialist) was that Patrick performed to an exceptional standard.

Mitchell Claydon (with Cricket Victoria) and Bede Sajowitz (with Cricket Tasmania) have been selected for umpire exchange programs to take place in the new year.

U14 Male State Challenge

The U14 Male State Challenge will be played in Dubbo January 22-25. Congratulations and best wishes to the appointed umpires:

Bill Battese, Bruce Baxter, Dennis Chaplin, Dwayne Kent, Graham Moon, Stephen Poidevin, Graham Rose, Peter Smith

U15 Female State Challenge

The U15 Female State Challenge will be played in Dubbo January 23-25. Congratulations and best wishes to the appointed umpires:

Katie Collins, Sue Gregory, Kate Rowlands, Manjinder Sandhu

Cricket Australia National Championships

U19 Male | Albury

We were very well represented with Mitchell Claydon, Andrew Hamilton, Daniel Moran and Bede Sajowitz all selected by Cricket Australia.

Congratulations to Mitchell Claydon who was appointed to umpire the final between New South Wales Metropolitan and Queensland standing with Chris Grant (Victoria).



U19 Female | Brisbane

Elizabeth O'Dwyer was selected by CNSW / NSWCUA as the New South Wales Umpire for the U19 Female National Championships played December 14-21. Elizabeth performed strongly and was appointed to a semi-final, a great achievement at her first national championships.

U16 Female | Hobart

Lauren McGill has been selected by CNSW / NSWCUA as the New South Wales Umpire for the U16 Female National Championships being played January 18-25. This will be Lauren's first national championship experience. We offer our congratulations and best wishes.

Australian Country Cricket Championships

Life member Kim Norris has been appointed match referee for the ACCC to be played in Newcastle January 3-10.

New South Wales umpires appointed are:

Men's Division

Dave Cullen, Graeme Glazebrook, Murray Le Lievre, Rodney Porter, Phil Rainger

Women's Division

Sue Gregory, Lauren McGill, Leone Mizzi, Elizabeth O'Dwyer, Kate Rowlands

Visiting Umpires to New South Wales Premier Cricket

The program of inviting country umpires to officiate in men's and women's premier cricket in Sydney will continue in season 2023-24. We look forward to welcoming several country umpires and hope they enjoy the experience.

Thought ...

I am reading Jana Pittman's book, Enough ... accept yourself, just the way you are.

A question posed in it caused a smile.

What's the best way to eat an elephant?

The answer provided ... One bite at a time.

This saying reminds me that big things are achieved by doing little things every day. It's not so much about being motivated (although it sure doesn't harm), but more about being consistent. The small bites add up. Robin Sharma has previously written ... Small daily improvements over time create stunning results.

We are all encouraged to persevere. As so many of our members have discovered and now model, on the road to success there is rarely a crowd on the extra mile.

Raise Your Game written by Alan Stein Jr. is a recommended read. He refers to 12 key mindsets of world class athletes ...

- They never get bored with the basics. They work towards mastery of the fundamentals... during the Unseen Hours... every single day.
- They earn their confidence through repetition. They know that repetition is not punishment, but rather the most proven form of learning and skill acquisition of all time.



Pat Kerin & Manjinder Sandhu

- They remain humble. No matter how good they are... they can always get better. This allows them to stay open to coaching and willing to accept feedback.
- They have a clear vision of what they want to achieve. However, despite being goal driven, they focus heavily on the process. They spend minimal time wishing, wanting, and hoping. Instead, they work to develop the daily habits, behaviours, routines, and micro-skills needed to progressively inch toward their goal.
- They make their preparation their separation. They maximise the Unseen Hours – the time behind the curtain when the lights are off and the arenas are empty. They understand that 'To have it when you need it most you must practice it when you need it least.'
- They don't fear mistakes – they embrace them! They understand that mistakes are part of the growth process. They acknowledge that 'Success comes from good decisions. Good decisions come from experience. Experience comes from bad decisions.'
- They control the controllables. They put their focus, energy, and attention into their own effort and attitude – and they let everything else go. They don't allow the environment or circumstances to dictate how they show up.
- They quickly move to the Next Play. When things don't go their way, when they make a mistake, or when life is less than preferred... they quickly wipe the slate clean and move on!
- They make those around them better. They lead by example, hold those they care about accountable, and live by the mantra that a candle loses nothing by lighting another candle.
- They are relentlessly consistent and consistently relentless. They uphold a high standard of excellence even when they don't feel like, when they don't want to, or when it's not convenient.
- They have an attitude of extreme ownership. They take full responsibility for everything in their life. They don't blame, complain, or make excuses.

- They embrace pressure. They feel stress and pressure just like everyone else, they simply manage it more effectively by viewing it as a privilege.

These concepts are readily available and accessible to all of us right now.

The challenge is not to be tricked by their simplicity. While each of these mindsets may be basic in premise, they are very challenging to execute consistently.

Just because something is basic ... it doesn't mean it's easy.

Success is a result of what we do all of the time. It's the hard work we do when no one is watching that makes a massive difference.

The fight is won or lost far away from the witnesses, behind the lines, in the gym, and out there on the road; long before I dance under those lights. Cassius Clay

Our best match officials are able to put their full attention into the present moment. They have learned how to focus on three things:

- The next play
- The controllables
- The process

In his book "Raise Your Game" ... Stein believes, "The single most important thing a person needs for success is self-awareness."

Staffing

Our Umpire Education Officer Ben Treloar has taken leave to focus on his BBL umpiring commitments. Ben will return to work on February 1. We thank Ben for his exemplary work on behalf of members and the Association. He is outstanding educator, hard working and innovative. We wish him the very best for his BBL appointments.

Roberto Howard has been employed on an interim basis as Umpire Education Officer NSWCUSA for the months of December and January. Roberto is a superb fit, a high performance umpire, a member of the State Panel and with strong education and training background and experience.

Staff

Thank you to:

- Ben Treloar and Roberto Howard as mentioned above.
- Troy Penman for his exceptional leadership of the Association as Executive Officer. He has done an excellent job in all respects and is taking the NSWCUSA forward. He has a strong work ethic and attention to detail.
- Claire Polosak for her outstanding work in the area of umpire education, particularly in the Community Cricket space, and also with female umpire engagement. We are the envy of other cricketing bodies around the world to have such a focus on recruiting, developing and providing opportunity for female match officials.

- Bede Sajowitz for his exemplary administration, service to members and support of the team. He does a wonderful job.
- Bruce Whitehouse for his excellent organisation and leadership of the CNSW Competitions Team. The work of this team contributes greatly to the CNSW purpose of inspiring people to play and love cricket. So many people enjoy their involvement in cricket because of the hard and understated work of Bruce and his team. To Bruce, Stephen Blomfield, Roy Formica, Sean Mantle and Jess McMahon we offer a sincere vote of thanks.

Members

Thank you one and all. Your commitment to cricket makes a massive positive contribution to cricket in New South Wales. We appreciate all you do and wish you the very best for the Christmas season and for the second half of season 2023-24. What you do makes a great difference to the people involved in the matches you officiate. For those travelling on our roads at this busy time, please go safely and enjoy your time.



Dave Cullen & Graeme Glazebrook ahead of the Country Championships Final

EDUCATION OFFICER UPDATE

ROBERTO HOWARD

Thank you to all members who have welcomed me into the Education Officer role. It has been a busy start to the job but working with the membership has been invigorating. It has been a busy start to December in the education space.

The Association ran a Level 2 Accreditation course over late November. At its peak we had over 100 attendees each evening. Thank you to the trainers who gave up their time to teach the laws to our participants and share their years of experience and wisdom.

We had 79 people attempt the exam with many starting the process of joining our Association. It is pleasing to see how excited the perspective members are of joining the best umpire's association.

At the December OGM, I spoke to the membership regarding NSW Men's Premier Cricket captains comments. The overall majority of comments are very positive complimenting the umpiring standard however there were a few key messages that should be reinforced.

·When a match is affected by GWL, it is imperative that we inform all stakeholders of the changes to the day's play. It is not just the players that need to know. We need to let the scorers, canteen, volunteers and ground staff of the changes to timings for the end of day or start time for subsequent day as well as changes to interval times.

·The preparation that you do during the week to prepare for your match on the weekend will give you the best opportunity to perform strongly.



Attendees at a laws course in Bankstown

Making sure you are aware of the playing conditions for your match, any key playing conditions or laws you might want to clarify or not sure of, contacting your partner prior to the match day to confirm which ground you will be going to, as well as packing your bag the night before.

·Do not base the success of your day on field on the decisions that were/were not raised by the captains throughout the match. Some questions to think about after each day you umpire:

- Did I support my colleague at the strikers end consistently throughout the day?
- Did we share the load talking to the captains?
- Were my routines at the bowlers and strikers end strong throughout the day?
- Was I in the moment for each ball?
- Did I move at the pace of the game?
- Did I objectively consider every appeal?

On December 12, Alan Mantle from Enhance Mind Performance led an Education Session for our members. Alan presented on the "Iceberg Theory" which challenged our members to reflect on their mental preparation for umpiring and provided concrete advice and tips for our members to ensure they enter the field of play in a positive mindset

Merry Christmas to all members and I hope that you can spend quality time with family and friends over the festive period. Enjoy the cricket on the TV over the new year period and best of luck in your upcoming matches.

TUCKER REACHES ODI CENTURY IN WORLD CUP SEMI-FINAL

CRICKET NSW MEDIA

NSWCUSA member Rod Tucker was appointed on-field for the first Men's Cricket World Cup semi-final – in what was also his 100th men's ODI.

The match in Mumbai between hosts India and New Zealand was the second time he has been in the middle for a Men's World Cup semi-final, having also overseen the New Zealand v South Africa semi-final in Auckland in 2015.

Tucker becomes the fifth Australian and third umpire from New South Wales to achieve the 100-match milestone in the limited overs format.

He made his men's ODI debut in January 2009 when Australia hosted South Africa in Hobart, before becoming a member of the Elite Panel of ICC Umpires the following year.

NSW State Umpiring Manager Darren Goodger said of the milestone, "Rod is an outstanding person and umpire who has enjoyed a wonderful career. He possesses excellent people, communication and match management skills, and is one the best decision makers in world cricket.

"Rod is a principal member of the NSWCUSA and has always been a strong advocate for the Association, CNSW and NSW Premier Cricket, being grateful to all from New South Wales who supported him during his umpiring career."

In the 50-over format, Tucker has been appointed to four Men's Cricket World Cups and two Champions Trophy tournaments, including the 2017 edition where he umpired the Final.

In addition to his 99 prior men's ODIs, Tucker has been on-field for 82 men's tests and 52 men's T20s.

Before turning to umpiring, Rod played 103 first-class matches between 1987 and 1999, making his first-class debut as a cricketer in a Sheffield Shield match for New South Wales against South Australia at Adelaide Oval.

His first-class debut as an umpire in December 2004 featured the same two sides – this time at the SCG.

His on-field partner for the match was Richard Illingworth, with Third Umpire Joel Wilson, Fourth Umpire Adrian Holdstock and Match Referee Andy Pycroft being the full match officials team.



Rod Tucker pictured during the World Cup // Getty

POLOSAK MAKES SHEFFIELD SHIELD DEBUT

BEDE SAJOWITZ

NSWCUSA member Claire Polosak made her Sheffield Shield debut last month, becoming NSWCUSA's 87th member to umpire a men's first-class match.

Polosak was on-field for the Round 5 match between Western Australia and South Australia at the WACA Ground, which saw her become the 616th umpire to stand in a men's first-class match in Australia.

She becomes the first Australian woman, and tenth known world-wide, to be on-field in a men's first-class fixture.

Her appointment comes following recent involvement in the women's international limited overs series against the West Indies in October and being involved in two regional ICC events over the winter.

NSW State Umpiring Manager Darren Goodger congratulated Polosak, "Claire has so much umpiring experience to draw on and this appointment to umpire a first-class match is pleasing recognition for her application, commitment to excellence and consistent performances in recent seasons.

"She displays outstanding attitude, character, discipline, integrity, professionalism and teamwork.

"Our New South Wales cricket community may be proud of Claire. She is an exceptional person and umpire; authentic, humble, real, living above the line behaviours in all she undertakes.



"We offer congratulations and our very best wishes for an enjoyable and successful first-class debut. May it be the first of many."

She has been a member of Cricket Australia's Supplementary Umpire Panel since 2014 and the ICC's International Panel of Development Umpires since 2019.

Polosak has umpired at a Commonwealth Games, four Women's T20 World Cups, two Women's World Cups as well as a women's Test between Australia and India in 2021 – among a total of 95 internationals across genders and formats.

In what has already been a busy season, she has been involved in the One-Day Cup, the WBBL and the Men's Second XI competition.

Cricket Australia have previously appointed her on-field in three WBBL finals and two WNCL finals and she has been in the middle for six One-Day Cup matches, two Big Bash matches and nine State Second XI Fixtures.

Polosak's on-field partner was Tasmanian-based Sam Nogajski, with Match Referee David Gilbert and local scorers Lance Catchpole and Sandy Wheeler.

PENMAN & POLOSAK APPOINTED TO WBBL|09 FINAL

BEDE SAJOWITZ

NSWCUSA members Troy Penman and Claire Polosak were appointed by Cricket Australia to officiate the Women's Big Bash League Final between the Adelaide Strikers and Brisbane Heat at the Adelaide Oval earlier this month.

Polosak was on-field with South Australian umpire Eloise Sheridan, whilst Penman acted as TV Umpire for the match.

For Polosak it was the fourth time she has been in the middle of the WBBL Final, having previously umpired the final in 2019, 2020 and again in 2022.

Earlier in the finals series she was TV Umpire in the Challenger match, which saw the Brisbane Heat defeat the Perth Scorchers to advance to the final. Last month also saw Polosak make her Sheffield Shield debut, with the Final her 43rd WBBL match.

Penman was on-field in The Challenger at the WACA Ground on 29 November and was Fourth Umpire for the Eliminator the night prior.

The final was his 17th match as TV Umpire in the competition, which includes last year's final where he was also appointed to the match at North Sydney Oval.

State Umpiring Manager Darren Goodger praised the pair ahead of the match, "They are exceptional match officials at national level.

"We wish them and their match official colleagues all the very best for an enjoyable and successful experience in this national final."

They were joined by Drew Crozier as Fourth Umpire, with David Johnston Match Referee. Local scorers Mark Harris, Kate Murphy and Ian Graham recorded the match.



Claire Polosak and Eloise Sheridan take to the field // Getty

ABOOD ACHIEVES HISTORIC BIG BASH LEAGUE CENTURY

CRICKET NSW MEDIA

Boxing Day's KFC BBL|13 clash between the Sydney Sixers and Melbourne Stars at the SCG marked a historic moment for Gerard Abood, who became the first umpire to stand in 100 BBL fixtures.

This milestone contributes to an illustrious list of umpiring achievements for Abood, including:

- 1 Test Match | Australia Women v England Women at North Sydney Oval in 2017
- 11 One Day Internationals | 2 men's and 9 women's
- 20 T20 Internationals | 9 men's and 11 women's
- 81 men's First-Class matches including the 2017-18 Sheffield Shield final
- 58 men's List A matches including the 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2022-23 One Day Cup final
- On field umpire for 2018-19 and 2019-20 BBL finals
- 8 NSW Premier Cricket Belvidere Cup finals

Having joined the National Umpire Panel in season 2009-10, Abood is now in his 15th year of service. During which time he has earned the opportunity to umpire first-class cricket in India, New Zealand, and South Africa as part of umpire exchange programs organised by Cricket Australia.

Gerard is also a member of the Cricket Australia Umpire Leadership Group, elected by his peers. A measure of respect he has earned and the esteem in which he is held.

Cricket NSW Head of Competitions and Officiating, Darren Goodger, offered commendation and congratulations to Abood for his accomplishments both on and off the field.



Gerard Abood at the SCG // Getty

"Gerard Abood is an outstanding person and umpire. Respected by his colleagues and the players for his knowledge, professionalism and ability, Gerard is one of the most trusted umpires in Australia," Goodger said.

"He is a strong match official going about his work with an emphasis on the umpiring team, and with character and integrity.

"Gerard has also made an exemplary contribution to cricket away from the field being a long serving Assistant Code of Conduct Commissioner for the Sydney Cricket Association, being very generous with his time and expertise.

"Umpiring 100 BBL matches is an exceptional milestone and achievement, with Gerard having plenty more in front of him. We offer our congratulations to Gerard."

CRICKET CONFIRMED FOR 2028 LA OLYMPICS

ANDREW RAMSEY | CRICKET.COM.AU

Men's and women's teams will compete for gold in the T20 format, one of five new sports at the Games

Cricket's return to sport's greatest stage has been confirmed, with the International Olympic Committee confirming today it will be one of five sports approved for inclusion at the Los Angeles Games to be staged in July 2028.

Men's and women's teams will compete for gold in the T20 format, with the inclusion of cricket in the Olympics program for the first time in more than 120 years all-but ensuring the sport will also feature in the 2032 Games to be held in Brisbane.

Cricket's only previous appearance at a summer Olympics was the 1900 Games in Paris, where Great Britain (in reality, a club outfit from Devon and Somerset) defeated a French team comprised of mostly British expats to claim gold in the two-nation tournament.

It has featured twice at the Commonwealth Games, in 1998 at Kuala Lumpur where South Africa's men's team beat Australia in the final and most recently at Birmingham in 2022 as a women's event that saw Australia's all-conquering team win gold ahead from India, with New Zealand taking bronze.

Whereas the 1900 Olympics event was decided by a two-day match and the 1998 Commonwealth Games hosted a 50-over tournament, the growth of cricket's T20 format is seen as a better fit and was used at Birmingham last year.

Cricket Australia has been a strong advocate for cricket's inclusion at Olympic level, a commitment that was enshrined in CA's current five-year strategic plan.

"We are thrilled that the International Olympic Committee has approved the introduction of T20 cricket at the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic Games," Cricket Australia Chief Executive Nick Hockley said today.

"This is a game-changer for our sport that is already among the fastest growing in the world.

"The Olympic Games will undoubtedly increase the global reach of cricket, inspiring a whole new generation to love and play the game.

"The opportunity to win an Olympic medal also provides a new and exciting opportunity for our champion women's and men's teams.

"We look forward to working with the Australian Olympic Committee in the lead-up to the Los Angeles Games and are hopeful this will be the start of a long-standing relationship between cricket and the Olympics, including for Brisbane 2032."

It's the 20-over version with men and women's competitions that will feature at the 2028 Olympics in Los Angeles, just months before that year's men's T20 World Cup which the ICC recently confirmed will be staged in Australia and New Zealand.

Cricket is then expected to be a centrepiece of the subsequent 2032 Olympics in Brisbane, with Australia guaranteed a place in the proposed men's and women's competitions as host nation.

Queensland Cricket is thrilled at confirmation that cricket will be formally included in the Olympics for the Los Angeles 2028 Games," Queensland Cricket Chief Executive Terry Svenson said today.

"It will hopefully inspire boys and girls around the country to achieve their Olympic dreams through playing cricket.

"Along with Cricket Australia, we have championed regional Queensland venues for many years, and the investment in infrastructure promises to deliver a great outcome for sport as cricket joins the Olympic family.

"Likewise, this announcement also enhances the plans we have shared to deliver a redevelopment of the Allan Border Field capacity to at least 10,000 seats in Albion, which will also assist in the displacement period that cricket will face when the Gabba redevelopment is underway.

"We look forward to working collaboratively with the Queensland Government and our partners in Local Government to deliver world class venues into the future as the 2032 Olympics and Paralympics takes shape."

In addition to cricket's return, the IOC's meeting in Mumbai today confirmed flag football, lacrosse, baseball/softball and squash would be added to the program for the 2028 Games in Los Angeles.

The IOC meeting took place against the backdrop of the ongoing ICC men's 50-over World Cup, which is understood to have highlighted to Olympics officials the huge television audience of the game especially in sub continental viewing markets.



Australian women's team at the 2022 Commonwealth Games // Getty

MCC STATEMENT ON TIMED OUT IN MEN'S ICC CRICKET WORLD CUP

MCC

During the match between Sri Lanka and Bangladesh in the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup, there was the first recorded instance of a player being dismissed Timed out in one-day international cricket.

Sri Lanka's Angelo Mathews was given out, on appeal, when he was not ready to face the next delivery from Shakib Al Hasan following the dismissal of Sadeera Samarawickrama.

The relevant Law here is Law [40.1.1](#), which states: "After the fall of a wicket or the retirement of a batter, the incoming batter must, unless Time has been called, be ready to receive the ball, or for the other batter to be ready to receive the next ball within 3 minutes of the dismissal or retirement. If this requirement is not met, the incoming batter will be out, Timed out."

The match, however, was being played under ICC One-Day International Playing Conditions, which supersede the Laws on this matter. Whilst the wording remains otherwise identical across both Law and ICC Playing Conditions, the Playing Conditions change the relevant timing from three minutes to two minutes.

The key part of the Law, on this occasion, is that the batter must **'be ready to receive the ball'**. Being on the field, or even at the wicket, is not enough to avoid being Timed out. The batter must be in position for the bowler to be able to bowl inside the allotted time.

The umpires determined that Mathews was not ready to face the ball within that two-minute allowance. He subsequently suffered an issue with his helmet, causing further delay.

Had the umpires been informed of a significant, justifiable, equipment-related delay within the two-minute allowance, they could have treated it as a new type of delay (as they would when, for example, a bat breaks), possibly even calling Time, allowing for a resolution of that delay without the batter being at risk of being Timed out. However, it is important to note that both umpires determined the delay came after the two minutes had elapsed, and that Time had not been called before the appeal.

Having taken more than 90 seconds to get to the 30-yard circle, Mathews appeared to notice that he was short on time, jogging the final few yards to the wicket. His helmet malfunction has since been shown to have taken place 1 minute and 54 seconds after the previous wicket had fallen. He had not, at this stage, begun to take guard and was not close to being in a position to receive the ball.

When the helmet broke, it appears that Mathews did not consult with the umpires, which a player would be expected to do when seeking new equipment. Rather, he just signalled to the dressing room for a replacement. Had he explained to the umpires what had happened and asked for time to get it sorted out, they might have allowed him to change the helmet, perhaps calling Time and thus removing any possibility of being Timed out.

Given that Time had not been called, and that at the time of the appeal more than two minutes had elapsed, the umpires correctly gave Mathews out. In fact, there was no other action for the umpires to take within the Laws of Cricket.

There have been several questions which MCC has been asked since the incident on and the Club would like to address these.

1. IS THE TIMED OUT LAW REQUIRED?

Without this Law, a batter could waste time at the fall of a wicket, choosing not to come to the crease in a timely manner. This is particularly problematic in timed cricket, when the light may be fading and a draw a favourable result, but it is also relevant in limited overs cricket, where the fielding side is often punished for slow over-rates. Even if the intent is not specifically to waste time, a Law is required to keep the game moving and prevent significant delays between wickets.

2. SHOULD THERE BE AN ALLOWANCE IN THE TIMED OUT LAW FOR EQUIPMENT MALFUNCTION OR OTHER REASONABLE DELAYS?

Whilst MCC constantly reviews the Laws, the fact that this Law had never previously been invoked in international cricket, and only six previous times in first-class cricket, suggests that there is not a great need for change at this point. Furthermore, should the umpires think that there is a significant delay unrelated to the fall of wicket, they are entitled to make clear that this is a different interruption, and, if necessary call Time – as they would at any interruption in play. Under those circumstances, a batter cannot be Timed out.

3. WHAT ROLE DOES THE SPIRIT OF CRICKET PLAY?

In 2022, following the Run out of Charlie Dean by Deepti Sharma in the England v India women's One-Day International at Lord's, MCC issued a statement which included the following paragraph: "Cricket is a broad church and the spirit by which it is played is no different. As custodian of the Spirit of Cricket, MCC appreciates its application is interpreted differently across the globe.

Respectful debate is healthy and should continue, as where one person sees the bowler as breaching the Spirit in such examples, another will point at the non-striker gaining an unfair advantage by leaving their ground early.

Whilst [this] was indeed an unusual end to an exciting match, it was properly officiated and should not be considered as anything more."

The intention of the statement was in part to outline that the Spirit of Cricket is not owned by any one player, country or culture and that the game is played with subtle differences right across the globe. At the Spirit of Cricket's core are the values of respect and fair play, yet its application is interpretive, as issues considered to be totally reasonable in the eyes of some may be deemed unacceptable to others.

It is recognised that there are times when players will choose not to complete certain dismissals, not to appeal or, upon reflection, to withdraw an appeal. Provisions exist within the Laws of Cricket to facilitate these choices. It should be stressed that none of this is a requirement of the Laws of Cricket or the Spirit of Cricket, yet there are occasions when a fielding captain will feel that withdrawing an appeal, for example, would be 'the right thing to do', and such occasions are often rightfully held up as a positive example of the Spirit of Cricket.

A good illustration of this is the **2022 Christopher Martin-Jenkins Spirit of Cricket** award. The recipient, Nepal's Aasif Sheikh, refused to run out Ireland's Andy McBrine, who had been accidentally upended by bowler Kamal Airee while attempting a run. Had Aasif run out McBrine, he would have been well within his rights under the Laws of Cricket, and nobody could reasonably say that he had acted outside the Spirit of Cricket. However, he chose to take a different course of action, and in doing so, rightly earned plaudits the world over.

Whilst the Laws and Playing Conditions govern the game, much like within legislation which governs society and other sporting codes, there will be frequent shades of grey in interpretation and not all scenarios can be foreseen and specifically codified. In these instances, it is the players who will ultimately determine how their game is to be played.

SHE LIVES BY THE LAWS OF UMPIRING

SWAGATA SEN | CRICKET NSW MEDIA

About a decade ago, Elizabeth O'Dwyer, a lawyer, had a passing interest in cricket. She had never played the game herself, and when watching matches on TV with her partner Grant, would often ask questions to understand what exactly happened out there.

When she saw an ad in the paper inviting all interested to apply for an umpiring course, her partner challenged her to pass the preliminary test. According to her, he never believed she could get the answers right.

She did what any self-respecting lady would do in that situation, or even in general. She sought to prove him wrong. She answered all of the cricketing questions she was asked, well enough to convince the experts who were training her that she would make an amazing umpire.

O'Dwyer says that passing the umpiring course held at Moore Park all those years ago made a big difference to her life. The last 10 years, the Dulwich Hill resident has spent almost every cricket season umpiring in about 20 games on an average.

A mother of an eight-year-old daughter and a two-year-old toddler, O'Dwyer works long hours as a lawyer, and then spends most of her weekends as an umpire.

From her early days of umpiring in women's grade cricket to officiating during 2nd Grade Men's Premier Cricket matches, O'Dwyer has loved her umpiring journey.

Each match has presented its own challenges, and through the years, she has aspired to higher standards and better skill levels as the game needed.

As she has improved, so have her responsibilities. "As I get better, I get more opportunities. But I have enjoyed every one of them."

A highlight of her career as an umpire has been winning a men's premier cricket panel award in 2020-21. The award is dependent on a number of factors, most importantly, recommendations from the players and the team captains. A female umpire winning the award is rare, and O'Dwyer doesn't take the achievement lightly.

O'Dwyer says that to perform her job to the best results both on and off the field, she compartmentalizes her life.



Elizabeth O'Dwyer in action as UTS North Sydney play Manly Warringah

Her work life is what it is, and her home needs are enormous at this point. But cricket is the counterbalance to the stress she has to deal with everywhere else. Her smartwatch doesn't lie.

She says that when she steps on to the field as an umpire, her heart rate on her watch flatlines, showing that she is her calmest on the cricket field. She continues to do this for her mental health, she says.

At the heart of it is her love of cricket that has grown over the year. Every game is to be celebrated, she said. "I wouldn't be doing this if it didn't bring me joy."

Cricket NSW is proud of its female umpires who bring dedication and excellence to the game; Claire Polosak, Umpire Educator/Female Umpire Engagement, Cricket NSW said:

"Elizabeth O'Dwyer's commitment to excellence, like those of many other female umpires across NSW, is an important cog in the wheel of cricket and the smooth management of the game. Cricket is growing for women every season, and the presence of female umpires, coaches and volunteers help women play the game in an environment that makes them feel safe and boosts performance.

"It is heartening to note that Cricket NSW's efforts through the years has helped us improve the gender divide in leaps and bounds in the field of officiating. Good umpiring goes a long way in making our players play and love cricket and umpires such as Elizabeth foster that inspiration."



Elizabeth O'Dwyer with colleagues Michael Schokman and Sue Gregory // Steven K Smith

ICC ANNOUNCES LANDMARK EQUAL MATCH-DAY PAY

ICC MEDIA RELEASE

In a groundbreaking decision, the ICC announced equal pay for female match officials, signalling its commitment to gender equality in cricket.

The reforms include the equalization of match-day pay for ICC umpires, regardless of whether they are officiating men's or women's cricket matches.

The initiative, which is set to be implemented in January 2024, marks a pivotal moment in cricket's history, as it takes another stride towards equal opportunities in the sport.

The Chief Executives' Committed (CEC) also recommended including at least one neutral umpire in every series of the ICC Women's Championship, in line with the long-standing practice in men's international cricket.

The Board also approved new gender eligibility regulation for women's cricket according to which male-to-female participants who have undergone male puberty will not be eligible to compete in the international women's game, irrespective of any surgical or gender reassignment treatment they may have undertaken.

ICC will revisit these regulations within two years to align with the sport's evolving landscape. At the domestic level, though, these regulations will remain under the jurisdiction of individual member boards.

ICC Chief Executive Geoff Allardice remarked, "The changes to the gender eligibility regulations resulted from an extensive consultation process and are founded in science, aligning with the core principles developed during the review.

"Inclusivity is incredibly important to us as a sport, but our priority was to protect the integrity of the international women's game and the safety of players."

The ICC has also agreed to implement a trial "stop clock" in men's ODI and T20I cricket from December 2023 to April 2024. This aims to regulate the time taken between overs.

A five-run penalty will be imposed the third time a bowling team fails to be ready to bowl the next over within 60 seconds of completing the previous one.

This move is part of a broader effort to improve the pace of the game and enhance the spectator experience.

Changes have also been approved to the pitch and outfield monitoring regulations. These changes include a simplification of the criteria for pitch assessment and an increase in the threshold for when a venue might lose its international status, from five to six demerit points over a five-year period.



ICC umpires Jacqueline Williams and Kim Cotton // ICC

AROUND THE ZONES

NEIL FINDLAY

The Executive and office-bearers of the Affiliated Associations play a vital role in maintaining and developing umpiring and their efforts should be acknowledged. Two such office-bearers who relinquished their positions this season are:

- Matt Sizer (Murray Valley CUA – President)
- Rod Pye (North Coast CUSA – Treasurer), a role he held 14 years.

In addition, many of the Affiliates are fortunate to have members who have given exceptional years of service both on and off the field. The following achievements are deserving of recognition.

- 450 matches
 - Darryl Price (Newcastle District CUA)
 - Steve Saye (Illawarra CUA)
- 300 matches
 - Terry Collins (Newcastle District CUA)
 - Ross McKim (Newcastle District CUA)
- 250 matches:
 - Patrick Smellie (Sydney Shires CUA)
 - Michael Wheeler (Sydney Shires CUA)

Bradley Bristow of the Bankstown District CUA, was also recently awarded Life membership of that association, for which we acknowledge and congratulate him.



Byron Kauflin and Paddy Moylan at Bradman Oval as Paddy makes his First Grade debut in the Highlands DCA

TECHNICAL

ROBERTO HOWARD

The WBBL provides excellent learning opportunities for all members. Over the course of 56 matches, there are always scenarios in which we can learn from as match officials. Two examples that came out of this season happened in the last week of the tournament.

It goes to show that we as match officials need to have a substantial knowledge of the Laws of cricket. We need to be able in those moments in which we are called upon, to apply the laws correctly.

The first scenario is an example of illegal fielding by Brisbane Heat player Amelia Kerr. This is a rare occasion where this has occurred in a match and great to study in preparation for our own matches. When studying videos, it is important to look at it objectively and use the video as a learning opportunity. When we are on field, we only get one look at a scenario – we don't have the benefit of video replays and looking at situations multiple times.

Law 28.2.1 states that a fielder may field the ball with any part of his/her person. However he/she will be deemed to have fielded the ball illegally if, while the ball is in play he/she wilfully uses anything other than part of his/her person to field the ball.

A key consideration that we must make in determining whether illegal fielding has taken place. We need to determine whether the action is accidental or wilful. To determine this, we need to consider did the object or item fall off the player's person.

It is not illegal fielding if the ball in play makes contact with a piece of clothing, equipment or any other object which has accidentally fallen from the fielder's person or been dropped by an umpire. We need to look for a deliberate action from the player to determine that it was a wilful action.

We see the illegal fielding act – but what is the process that we need to follow? The Laws of Cricket are our best friend. Law 28.2.3 tells us that there are a few steps we need to implement:

- When the act of illegal fielding occurs, the ball shall immediately become dead. Good practice would encourage umpires to call and signal dead ball in a scenario to ensure that all players are aware that nothing else can take place from that moment. Umpires should grab the ball from the fielding side and come together to discuss what they saw. This will also be helpful in discussing how many runs are scored and also informing the fielding captain and batters together as a team.
- If the ball was a no ball or wide, that shall stand. Umpires should signal the no-ball or wide to the scorers.



- Any runs completed by the batter shall be credited to the batting side, together with the run in progress if the batters had already crossed at the instant of the offence.
- The ball shall not count as one of the over – the ball will need to be re-bowled as a punishment. This is also another point of discussion with your colleague when you get together after calling dead ball.
- Bowler's end umpire to award 5 penalty runs to the batting side.
- Inform all stakeholders of what has occurred – inform other umpire, captain of the fielding side, inform the batters and as soon as practicable, the captain of the batting side of what has occurred.

I would encourage all members to watch the linked video and consider the following questions:

<https://www.cricket.com.au/videos/3791466/a-melia-kerr-uses-towel-gives-away-five-penalty-runs-brisbane-heat-sydney-sixers-wbbl09>

1. What did the umpire do well?
2. Is there anything you would have done differently?

Another rare scenario which occurred in a recent test match took place between Bangladesh and New Zealand. Bangladesh batter Mushfiqur Rahim in defending his wicket, used his hand not holding the bat, to touch the ball and deflect it away from the stumps.

A video of the incident can be viewed here:
<https://www.foxsports.com.au/cricket/cricket-2023-mushfiqur-rahim-given-out-handled-ball-obstructing-the-field-bangladesh-v-new-zealand-test-series-cricket-news-reaction/news-story/06ff9ba2094e76e5a06cfbb25bf82c87>

Prior to the most recent code of the Laws of Cricket, this dismissal would have been recorded as Out – Handled the ball. However, in the 2017 Code – Version 3 – Handled the ball does not exist and it would be recorded as Out – Obstructing the Field. I would encourage all members to read over Law 37.1.2 that covers this scenario.

A couple of things that stood out to me while watching the video:

1. Composure of the strikers end umpire – when incidents like this occur, it is very easy to react quickly and make a decision. You can see the umpire put his hands in front of himself to direct the players to take a breath while he walks towards his colleague at the bowlers end. A suggestion would be to call and signal dead ball and then take possession of the ball and then go and speak with your colleague.
2. Speaking to the batter together – while not being necessary under law, this is a good example of teamwork by the match officials. When complicated or out of the ordinary incidents occur, if the umpires explain what they saw and will happen as a team, it goes a long way to selling the decision to the players on and off field. It shows that you considered all the factors before making a decision.



FEMALE ENGAGEMENT

CLAIRE POLOSAK

The season has started strongly for female umpires in NSW, with 284 appointments leading into the Christmas break – it's exciting to have some new umpires join the association and be getting out on the park.

Some notable appointments that have occurred already this season:

The Women's Country Championship umpiring panel was a fifty-fifty gender split of umpires, with Sue Gregory, Elisabeth Houston, Lauren McGill and Kate Rowlands working with Bill Battese, John Davidson, Rod Porter and Graham Moon. This tournament was played 26-28 September.

The CNSW U16 Female State Challenge on 4 & 5 October was umpired by an umpiring panel made up solely of female umpires - being Leone Mizzi, Kate Rowlands, Sophia Richards and Manjinder Sandhu.

The U16 Women's Country Championships in Queanbeyan was played between December 19-21 and involved the following umpires: Dennis Chaplin, Katie Collins, Elisabeth Houston, Margaret Marshall, Lauren McGill, Leone Mizzi, Graham Moon, and Manjinder Sandhu.

Lauren McGill and Elizabeth O'Dwyer were appointed to the Women's Plan B Country Bash Final, played between Newcastle Blasters and Riverina Bullets at Cricket Central on November 21. Other female umpires that were also involved in the tournament performed strongly, namely Sue Gregory, Elisabeth Houston, Lauren McGill, Leone Mizzi, Sophia Richards, and Manjinder Sandhu.



Elizabeth O'Dwyer & Lauren McGill

Elizabeth O'Dwyer was also selected to attend Cricket Australia's U19 Female National Championships, held in Brisbane from December 14 to 21. This is her first time representing NSWUSA and NSW at a Cricket Australia tournament. She prepared well and performed strongly at this tournament, selected to stand in the Semi Final between Victoria Country and Queensland.

Female umpires officiating in affiliated associations and district competitions around NSW make up just over 50% of female umpires in the state. It is great to have such a variety in where there are female umpires working hard for the game.

Thank you to the NSWUSA affiliated associations who are supporting and providing opportunities to these umpires around the state, it is greatly appreciated.

All the very best to members, family and friends for the festive season - I wish everyone some much needed R and R time, ready to come back and finish the rest of the season strongly!

THE GAME OF INCHES

CRAIG LARDNER

It's been around 500 years
This game of finery and skill,
A challenge to all its' peers
A testament to a players' strong will.

It's stood the test of time and many modern asks.
This game with all its heritage and fame,
It's famous for its sportsmanship
Forever enshrined, "It's in the spirit of the game".

It comes in several forms and deviations,
The skills to win, switching with each type.
Appeals to different tastes, through all its
variations,
Bringing levels of excitement, thrills and hype.

There is a special precision
That goes with each decision.
A tiny inch between a hit or miss
So look a little closer..It goes like this.

Ball one is due, dashing to the crease
Arm raised, leg stride, and eyes the white wall
But over it, by just a small piece
The call is made..No ball!

The law is clear, it makes this game.
It sets the mark on what's allowed.
Dictating how you play and train
All the 1 percenters, a challenge to see, even for
the crowd.

Then the crack of willow and the need to run
An urgent sprint, they cross and call,
The shout's for two, the jobs not done.
The bails are off, safe by a gap so small.

The drive is played, and it races to the rope.
The chase is on, runs and slides
That reaching grab, like taking soap,
But it touched the line, now the batters pride.

Committed to the shot, but the half shine swings,
Plays the stroke, thinks it's a cinch,
The tiny edge is the result it brings,
Out caught, just by an inch.

A diving slipper catch, the outreached hand
Not quite there, with a tip of the finger
A despairing look as the ball does land
The sight of oh-so-close, will linger.

An inch is a tiny part
So small it shouldn't matter,
But in this game of cricket, at its' heart
It's all that counts, for bowler and batter

ONLINE LAWS QUIZ USER GUIDE

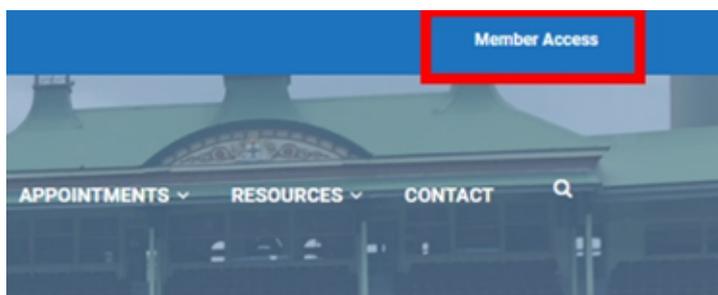
BEDE SAJOWITZ

The Association is delighted to continue offering its online Laws of Cricket Quiz to aid the continued education and development of members. The initial quiz available is made up of ten multiple choice questions, with each question randomly generated from the database of 375 potential available questions, with more to be added in the future.

Whilst designed for use on computers, the quiz is mobile-friendly and can be used on all phones and tablets, both Apple and Android. All attempts and responses are anonymous and are not linked to your website account or your membership.

To access the quiz, you'll need to login to the Member Access section of the site, using your email address as the username – the link to login can be found in the top right corner of your screen. Once logged in the Laws of Cricket Quiz will appear under 'Resources' on the main menu.

Alternatively, you can also use this link: nswcusa.cricketnsw.com.au/resources/laws-of-cricket-quiz - though you will still need to login using your email and password.



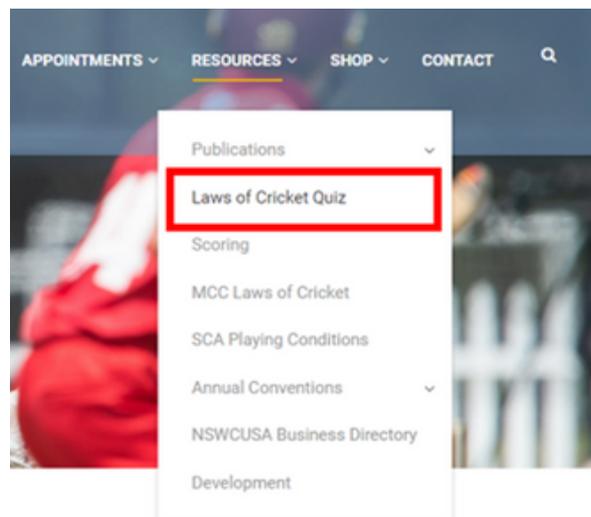
Once you hit 'Start Quiz', navigating the questions is relatively straightforward. Once you choose an answer from the options presented, select the green 'Check Answer' option to receive instant feedback on your answer. You'll then be able to proceed to the next page and be presented with the next question. Once you've completed the set of ten questions, there are two options – to 'Review Answers' or to 'Retake Quiz'.

Choosing to review your answers will provide details of the ten questions that you attempted and will re-present the feedback on each for you to refer to. Selecting 'Retake Quiz' will take you back to Question One of a brand-new set of ten questions for you to attempt.

Thanks to the Association's Examination Committees of recent years for the work that has gone into ensuring the questions and answers are accurate and compliant with the current Laws of Cricket as well as the Board for their support of the project to publish these questions to ensure members are able to access and utilise them.

You can attempt the quiz as often as you like - happy quizzing!

Note. The questions are based on the 2019 edition of the Laws - with work being done to update the database to 2022



CRICKET ARCHIVE PROMO

Cricket Archive are the world's leading authority on compiling cricket data and by building the only source of fully searchable first-class, List A and T20 cricket records from around the globe, their team of distinguished statisticians have created the game's definitive database of professional cricket.

Subscribers have access to:

- More than 300 years' worth of data, containing 1.2 million players, 700,000 scorecards and 14,000 grounds.
- Their exclusive Official Oracle – search and find historical records for umpires, scorers and match referees.
- Archive issues of The Cricketer magazine, dating back to 1921
- Stats for all Australian domestic men and women's cricket, (Second XI), and under-19 state competitions for men and women.
- A thoroughly searchable, definitive database of professional and amateur cricket across the world.
- Player records from junior grassroots to Test arena.



The platform are offering NSWCUA members a special discount for a year's subscription to the platform and its database, with a **20% discount** available.

To redeem this discount, visit cricketarchive.com/subscribe, choose the Annual Plan, and enter the coupon code **TCM20**.

FROM THE VAULT

2013-14 ANNUAL REPORT | HALL OF FAME

The NSW Cricket Umpires' and Scorers' Association (NSWCUSA) will celebrate its 100th birthday this evening by announcing the 11 inaugural inductees into its Hall of Fame during a Gala Dinner hosted in Darling Harbour.

Founded on 15 August 1913, the NSWCUSA is the second oldest State umpiring association in Australia, just behind the South Australian Cricket Umpires Association. It has grown from humble beginnings to over 1200 members in 2012/13, with 40 affiliate organisations throughout NSW. In the last 100 years, the NSWCUSA has produced 84 First Class umpires and 13 Test Umpires, the last of which was former NSW and Tasmanian cricketer, Rod Tucker. It is also the only State-based association in the world to have had three members appointed to the ICC Elite Panel since its inception in 2003, those being Darrell Hair, Simon Taufel and Rod Tucker.

Selection of the inductees was based on the significance of their contribution to umpiring and scoring, and to the NSWCUSA through the Association's first century. Compilation of the initial inductees was based on nominations from the NSWCUSA Centenary Committee, background research on the candidates by the authors of the Association's history, and reference to the Chairman of the NSWCUSA, with final oversight provided by the Board of Directors of NSWCUSA.

The 2013 Hall of Fame inductees:

- George Borwick MBE
- Tom Brooks OAM
- Dick Burgess
- Dick Callaway

- Herb Elphinston
- Dick French OAM
- Darrell Hair
- Alf Jones
- Fred Lyons
- Simon Taufel
- Ted Wykes OAM

All 11 inductees have umpired First Class cricket, with Borwick, Brooks, Callaway, Elphinston, French, Hair, Jones, Taufel and Wykes going on to stand in Test matches. Burgess, Hair, French and Taufel are the only current living Hall of Fame inductees.

NSWCUSA Chairman, Dr Stephen Poole, said the announcement of the Hall of Fame was a wonderful way to celebrate the Association's Centenary.

"The NSWCUSA has a rich history and we are extremely proud of what our members have achieved. The men inducted into the Hall of Fame have earned their place based on their outstanding careers, and the marvellous contribution they have made to the development of Association," he said.

Cricket NSW Chairman, John Warn, congratulated the NSWCUSA on reaching their centenary, and thanked the members for their invaluable service to the game.

"The NSWCUSA has made an enormous contribution to the growth and development of umpiring and scoring in NSW, especially in recent times through their innovative training and education programs. Umpires and scorers are often referred to as the 'third team' in a game of cricket and are a crucial part of our sport at all levels. We are extremely grateful to all of these officials for their efforts," said Warn.

"The creation of a Hall of Fame is a wonderful initiative to recognise the achievements of some outstanding members.

These men have set a high standard for all current and future members and I am certain that their legacies will help maintain the NSWCUSA's status as one of the leading professional associations in cricket," he added.

To commemorate the Centenary of the NSWCUSA, a book titled "No Dazzling Deeds with Bat or Ball" has been produced. Written by Ronald Cardwell and David Jenkins of The Cricket Publishing Company, the book chronicles the rise, growth and development of umpiring and scoring in NSW from the events that led to the formation of the Association in 1913, right through to today.

2013 NSWCUSA Hall of Fame Inductees

George Borwick MBE (Born: 2 April 1896, Pyrmont; Died 1 August 1981, Hornsby)

George Borwick umpired 24 Tests between 1931 and 1948, as well as 59 First Class matches. He was President of the Association from 1935 until 1955.

Tom Brooks OAM (Born 28 March 1919, Died: Paddington; 16 July 2007, Springwood)

A Life Member of the NSWCUSA, Tom Brooks umpired 23 Tests between 1970 and 1978 and 52 First Class matches. He umpired in the United Kingdom in 1975 and officiated in the Centenary Test.

Dick Burgess (Born: 1 July 1919, Pambula)

Dick Burgess served as Secretary of the NSWCUSA for 14 years and was also made a Life Member. He umpired in eight First Class matches during his career.

Dick Callaway (Born: 2 August 1860, Sydney; Died: 19 March 1935, North Bondi)

Dick Callaway was the first Secretary of the NSWCUSA, holding the position for nine years. Dick stood in 26 First Class matches and three Tests prior to the formation of the NSWCUSA, and two First Class games after its formation.

Herb Elphinston (Born 25 February 1905, Leichhardt; Died 8 July 1966, Forestville)

NSWCUSA Life Member, Herb Elphinston, umpired

10 Test matches between 1948 and 1953, as well as 35 First Class matches.

Dick French OAM (Born: 7 August 1938, Randwick)

Dick French umpired 19 Tests between 1977 and 1987, as well as 37 First Class matches. A Life Member, he also served as President of the Association and is a current Patron.

Darrell Hair (Born: 30 September 1952, Mudgee)

Darrell Hair officiated in 78 Tests between 1992 and 2008, and 88 First Class matches. He is a Life Member of the NSWCUSA and a former Executive Officer.

Alf Jones (Born: Sydney, 6 June 1859, Died: 10 February 1949, Paddington)

Alf Jones umpired seven Test matches prior to the formation of the NSWCUSA. He also stood in 26 First Class matches prior to its formation, and 34 First Class games post formation. Jones was also the NSWCUSA's inaugural Treasurer, holding the position for 26 years.

Fred Lyons (Born: 1 March 1884, Redfern; Died: 16 March 1966, Croydon)

A Life Member, Fred Lyons was the Secretary of the NSWCUSA for 16 years and President for one year. He officiated in 11 First Class matches during his career.

Simon Taufel (Born 21 January 1971, St Leonards)

Simon Taufel stood in 74 Test matches between 2000 and 2012, as well as 31 First Class fixtures. A NSWCUSA Life Member and multiple winner of the ICC Umpire of the Year award, Simon now works for the ICC as the Umpire High Performance Manager.

Ted Wykes OAM (Born: 28 April 1921, Little Brighton, Northampton,UK; Died 22 November 2008, Wollongong)

Ted Wykes umpired in one Test match and 70 First Class games at the SCG. In fact, the Umpires' Room at the famous ground is named after him. Wykes was a President and Patron of the Association, and was also made a Life Member

CRIC-O-KU Number 22
Clue: Where the batsman might get hit if he ducks

R			I					
	I	T	S					
				A	D	T		S
	R		A		S	H		T
	D	S		F		A	E	
F		A	H		E		S	
S		H	D	R				
					H	F	D	
					I			A

Every row, column, and 3x3 box must contain each of the nine symbols, just like a normal Sudoku. With *Cric-o-ku*, the symbols are letters and numbers, not just numbers, and when you've worked them all out, one of the rows or columns will be a cricket word. The answer will be in the next issue of *Black and White*. Enjoy!

CRIC-O-KU No 21: Solution

H	A	N	M	R	I	E	T	G
T	R	I	E	G	A	N	H	M
E	G	M	T	H	N	I	A	R
R	E	H	A	N	G	T	M	I
N	I	G	H	T	M	A	R	E
M	T	A	R	I	E	H	G	N
I	H	R	G	E	T	M	N	A
G	M	E	N	A	H	R	I	T
A	N	T	I	M	R	G	E	H

**DECEMBER 2023 MERCHANDISE
VOUCHER WINNER**



ASSOCIATION PARTNERS

TROY PENMAN

The Association is in a fortunate position where we have strong partnerships and relationships with a number of recognisable brands and companies.

We thank each partner for their assistance and support throughout season 2023-24, it is greatly appreciated by Management and Board.

Season 2023-24 sees NSWCUSA continue its sponsorship agreement with global fast food chain McDonald's. The sponsorship deal with McDonald's is in conjunction with a larger deal between Cricket NSW and McDonald's. McDonald's are continuing on the back of the Association's field shirts.

With the revenue from the sponsorship deal with McDonald's being invested in items for members, education and development, it offsets the cost for members and guests to attend Association events and an upgrade to Association products.

Since 2016, Beastwear has manufactured our merchandise – we are pleased for this association to continue into season 2023-24.

The Association looks forward to continuing this partnership into the future and ensuring members are provided with quality on and off field wear, including a polo-shirt for all members to commemorate the Association's 110th year which is in the process of being distributed to renewed members.

In recent years, the Association has hosted a number of events at Bankstown Sports Club. These include Annual Dinners, Annual Conventions and in recent seasons both OGMs and training courses.

On a number of occasions, by way of a grant, the club have covered the cost of the venue hire, freeing up Association funds to be available to be used for the benefit of members. We thank the Club and their Board for their continued support.

It is a pleasure to be continuing our relationships with each of our partners into season 2023-24. Discussions with McDonald's and Cricket NSW before last season saw a three-year deal finalised for CNSW and NSWCUSA. The funds received during the period will be used to improve the experience for all members.



2023-24 REPRESENTATIVE PANELS

ICC ELITE PANEL OF UMPIRES

RODNEY TUCKER (AUS.)

PAUL REIFFEL (AUS.)

ICC INTERNATIONAL PANEL OF UMPIRES

PHIL GILLESPIE (AUS.)

DONOVAN KOCH (AUS.)

SAM NOGAJSKI (AUS.)

PAUL WILSON (AUS.)

ICC DEVELOPMENT PANEL OF UMPIRES

HEATH KEARNS (JERSEY)

CLAIRE POLOSAK (AUS.)

CA NATIONAL UMPIRE PANEL

GERARD ABOOD

SHAWN CRAIG (VIC.)

GREG DAVIDSON

PHIL GILLESPIE (VIC.)

MIKE GRAHAM-SMITH (TAS.)

NATHAN JOHNSTONE (WA)

DONOVAN KOCH (QLD.)

SIMON LIGHTBODY

SAM NOGAJSKI (TAS.)

BRUCE OXENFORD (QLD.)

BEN TRELOAR

PAUL WILSON

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DREW CROZIER (SA)

STEPHEN DIONYSIUS (QLD.)

SHARAD PATEL

TROY PENMAN

CLAIRE POLOSAK

ELOISE SHERIDAN (SA)

DAVID TAYLOR (QLD.)

CNSW STATE UMPIRE PANEL

MITCH CLAYDON

ANDREW HAMILTON

ROBERTO HOWARD

DANIEL MORAN

BEDE SAJOWITZ

COUNTRY UMPIRE

REPRESENTATIVE PANEL

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JOHN DE LYALL

JEFF EGAN

GRAEME GLAZEBROOK

BRENTON HARRISON

GREG JONES

KEIRAN KNIGHT

MURRAY LE LIEVRE

PHIL RAINGER

2023-24 NSWCUSA COMMITTEES

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ANDREW COATES (CHAIR)

DAVE CULLEN

MICHAEL MEEHAN

ELIZABETH O'DWYER

SCORERS' COMMITTEE

JANELLE CAREW

PETER GARLICK

ADRIAN THAM (CHAIR)

SUE WOODHOUSE

IAN WRIGHT

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

VIPIN BANSAL

CHRIS BEECHER

NOEL FORD (CHAIR)

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