# AFL COMMUNITY UMPIRE & OFFICIALSHQ TECHNOLOGY GUIDE

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## INTRODUCTION

The AFL will introduce a new and innovative umpire technology offering from 2022.

This umpiring technology offering has been specifically designed to;

- 1. Reduce time spent on umpire administration and appointments
- 2. Increase accessibility to umpire training and accreditation
- 3. Improve umpire decision making capability through an interactive learning tool

This offering consists of three integrated platforms that are accessed via the OfficialsHQ gateway.



### **OFFICIALSHQ**

OfficialsHQ is a custom-built umpire management system with powerful functionality. This functionality includes direct to umpire communication, auto-appointments, team affiliation information, an umpire feedback platform for coaching purposes, umpire payment, travel and expense deduction. OfficialsHQ also encompasses all match day paperwork requirements i.e., match conditions, umpire votes, notice of reports, incident referrals, environmental ratings plus much more.



### The Umpire Learning Management System (LMS)

The umpire learning management system (LMS) is set to host 18 umpire and umpire coach certification and accreditation courses plus the Umpire Training Centre which contains 100+ umpire coaching resources and growing.

This is a move from the former 'set & forget' accreditation model to an ongoing education model. Umpires will be required to complete new learning module(s) each season, designed to keep all umpires current and updated.

This resource provides access to education to all umpires and is especially valuable to those umpires who are unable to attend local umpire training on a regular basis.

As OfficialsHQ and the umpire LMS is fully integrated, the umpire accreditation process now becomes automated which will significantly reduce administrative load for umpiring administrators.

#### **Umpires Decision Making Tool**

The AFL Umpires decision-making tool is a best-in-class application that is currently used to help develop the elite AFL Umpires decision making. Developed by Damian Farrow, a Professor in Skill Acquisition and current AFL Umpires Coaching & Innovations Manager, it is suitable for all umpires, regardless of level. This tool contains a 'Developing Understanding' mode for coaching and a 'Performance' mode – an interactive gamification mode to test an umpire's skill level. You can even test yourself against the umpire coaches!

This platform will be able to accommodate community football vision over time and will be available from early 2022.

Umpires	Available
Introductory Umpire Course	Now
Development Umpire Course	Early 2022
Advanced Umpire Course (Field/Boundary/Goal)	Early 2022
Introduction to High Performance Umpire Course	Late 2022
Umpire Coaches	Available
Introductory Umpire Coach Course	Early 2022
Development Umpire Coach Course	Now
Advanced Umpire Coach Course	Now
Introduction to High Performance Umpire Coach Course	Late 2022
Other Learning	Available
Umpire Training Centre	Now
Mentor Training Course	Now
Mentor Coordinator Course	Now
AFL 9's Umpiring Course	Mid 2022
School Umpiring Course	Early 2022
Inclusion Champion Course	Late 2021

## OFFICIALSHQ FOR UMPIRE ADMINISTRATORS

If you have used Schedula in the past, great news, OfficialsHQ will be a breeze!

We have searched high and far for the best-in-class provider and landed with OfficialsHQ. This application has all the functionality that you expect of an umpire management system plus much more.

Within the fully customisable forms, fields can be made conditional, so that when specific fields are completed or answered in a particular way, then auto-generated notifications can be sent to designated email address in real-time. As an Umpire Administrator you can have OfficialsHQ setup in such a way that you never miss a beat; from a late match start through to a red card – you choose!

While this sounds like a lot to learn, you don't need to worry, the system is intuitive, plus we'll train you up on everything you need to know.

### **Need Help?**

Umpire Administrators should contact their local Umpiring Manager for support.

Umpire Managers should contact their state-based Umpiring super user for support and training requirements.

# Some of the many benefits of OfficialsHQ include:

- > Single platform for all umpiring management functions
- Powerful auto-appointment functionality including 'club affiliated with' considerations
- > Flexible umpire appointment publishing
- Direct to umpire communication and file sharing capability e.g. League/ Umpire Handbooks
- Integration with the umpire LMS for Umpire Training Centre access and accreditation completion requirements
- > Simplified expenses and travel management
- > Umpire coach feedback
- > Completion of match day paperwork

# OFFICIALSHQ FOR LEAGUE-APPOINTED UMPIRES

We have made signing up, managing your match day and umpire accreditations easier than ever with OfficialsHQ; the new one stop shop for all things umpiring.

If you have used Schedula in the past, great news, OfficialsHQ is even easier to use. If you haven't used an umpire management system in the past, welcome to the easiest way to set your availability (leaves), accept or decline your appointments and manage your match payments.

OfficialsHQ offers exciting new functionality including where you will access League umpire handbooks, complete your League's match day paperwork and receive your feedback from umpire coaches

OfficialsHQ is also where you can access state-of-the art umpire learning in the one place. With 18 umpire and umpire coach certification and accreditation courses and the Umpire Training Centre which contains 100+ umpire coaching resources and growing, you will be sure to find the technical information that you are after to improve your game! This improved accessibility is great news for umpires who find it difficult to attend training regularly.

The umpire technology offering provides umpires unlimited access to each of the umpire technology platforms; meaning umpires can manage their games, payments, learn and complete their accreditation requirements anywhere, anytime and at their own pace. This offering also provides access to the decision-making tool used by the AFL Umpires. Developed by a world leading expert in Skill Acquisition and current AFL Umpires Coaching & Innovations Manager Prof. Damian Farrow, it is suitable for all umpires, regardless of level. This tool contains a 'Developing Understanding' mode for coaching and a 'Performance' mode - an interactive gamification mode to test an umpire's skill level. You can even test yourself against the umpire coaches!

#### **Need Help?**

Umpire should contact their local Umpiring Administrator if they have any questions.

If you are having difficulty logging into OfficialsHQ, contact the AFL Customer Service Team on 1800 PLAY AFL (7529 235) or umpire.afl@afl.com.au

# OFFICIALSHQ FOR LEAGUE ADMINISTRATORS

OfficialsHQ is the one stop shop for all things umpiring. Umpires sign up, manage their appointments, availability, learning and umpire accreditations through the one platform. This also includes administrative functions that are required to be completed by umpires on match day.

OfficialsHQ integrates with PlayHQ to import details, including team sheets and player details that enables umpires to accurately complete match critical functions including best on ground votes and disciplinary processes including order off and notice of reports.

This offering provides access to the decision-making tool used by the AFL Umpires. Developed by a world leading expert in Skill Acquisition and current AFL Umpires Coaching & Innovations Manager Prof. Damian Farrow, it is suitable for all umpires, regardless of level. This tool contains a 'Developing Understanding' mode for coaching and a 'Performance' mode – an interactive gamification mode to test an umpire's skill level.

#### How are match day forms created?

Once you are setup as an OfficialsHQ user, you will have access to OfficialsHQ to configure your League's match day 'paperwork' (we have even created some templates as a starting point).

The great thing about matchday paperwork functions in OfficialsHQ is that all forms are fully customisable. If you need to add or amend match day paperwork forms, this can be done easily and in real-time.

Fields can be made conditional, so that when specific fields are completed or answered in a particular way, then auto-generated notifications can be sent to a designated email address(es). As a League Administrator you can have OfficialsHQ setup in such a way that you never miss a beat; anything from a late match start through to a red card - you choose!

It is important that League Administrators and Umpiring Administrators work closely to capture all their requirements in these forms. We want to make it as easy as possible for everyone to capture the important information they require.

### How do I access completed match day forms?

Simply login to OfficialsHQ, click on 'Matchday Reports' and select the desired date range to export completed forms.

We know it can be a little frustrating when umpires don't submit their match day paperwork on time, so we have made it possible to create reminders to umpires to complete any outstanding forms. You can even set up forms so umpires will receive a post-match email every few hours until forms have been completed and submitted.

Refer to **OfficialsHQ for Club-Appointed Umpires** for information on how Clubs and Club-Appointed Umpires can easily access OfficialsHQ to complete your required paperwork.

#### **Need Help?**

Contact your local Umpiring Manager or state-based Umpiring super user for support.

### OFFICIALSHQ FOR CLUB-APPOINTED UMPIRES

We know Clubs have a lot happening on match day, so we want to make it as easy as possible for your Club-Appointed umpires to complete the required paperwork and get back to helping your Club.

Umpires (League-appointed or Club-Appointed) will be required to complete the match day paperwork via OfficialsHQ.

Clubs will be provided with a complimentary account to log in to OfficialsHQ to permit access to any match day paperwork that is required to be completed as directed by your League. If your Club has multiple Club-Appointed Umpires, they will all be able to log in to your Club's complimentary account to access any paperwork they need to complete for the games they umpire. Your Club-Appointed umpires will not need their own individual account (unless they wish to become officially accredited).

Prior to the commencement of the season, you will receive a communication from your League with details on how to login to OfficialsHQ and we recommend that your Club works closely with your League to ensure these login details are readily accessible to your Club-Appointed umpire.

It is recommended to print and laminate an A4 page clearly displaying the link app.officialshq.com or a QR code that directs to this link along with your Clubs' unique login details (username and password). Displaying this in your umpire's rooms ensures these details are readily accessible to your Club-Appointed umpires on match day.

OfficialsHQ is mobile device friendly, so we strongly recommend your Club-Appointed umpires complete any requirements immediately after the match.

The added benefit of utilising OfficialsHQ is that your Club-Appointed umpires will be able to access the umpire learning management system which provides access to the AFL's Umpire Training Centre; meaning your Club-Appointed umpires can develop their knowledge of umpiring throughout the season. They can even take the next step and become accredited should they wish to do so.

### **Need Help?**

Clubs should contact their local League Administrator if they have any questions.

If you are having difficulty logging into OfficialsHQ, contact the AFL Customer Service Team on 1800 PLAY AFL (7529 235) or umpire.afl@afl.com.au







