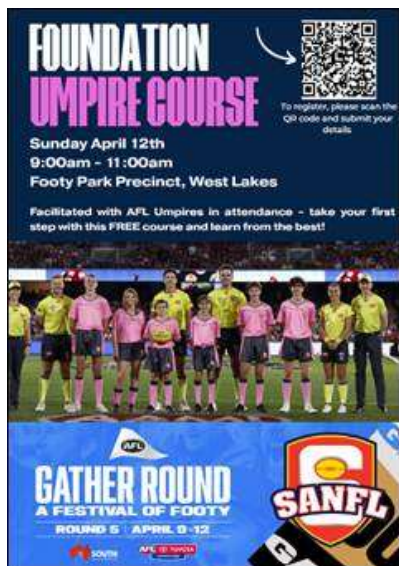




# SANFL Juniors Umpiring Update

13 March 2026

*Harnessing the power of umpiring to develop up-and-coming young individuals, guiding them from their first decision in junior football to becoming confident, capable leaders. Through mentorship, opportunity, and passion, we're not just officiating games — we're shaping futures.*



 **Hi to all our Umpires registered Junior Umpires for the 2026 season! The countdown is on — the 2026 Junior Umpiring Journey starts now!**

We're officially **49 days out from SANFL Juniors Round 1**, and the build-up is already buzzing. Training is just a month away, and the season energy is kicking in fast.

And here's where it gets even bigger — **Gather Round is almost here**, and this year it's packed with opportunities. Think AFL stars, packed clinics, and you right in the middle of the action. From **Auskick and Superkick Clinics** to **Mini Games** and supporting our SANFL Game Dev crew, it's your chance to step onto the field, get involved, and soak up the atmosphere alongside your favourite AFL teams and players. See below for more information and how you can get involved in the AFL Club Clinics!

There's plenty to read below. Have a look, get ready for a big year, and get involved in more ways than one!

## **Uniform Reminder**

Need to update your kit? Order SANFL gear here:

<https://www.kookaburrasport.com.au/teamwear/sanfl-league/>

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### **Get Involved: Junior Umpires Wanted for AFL Club Clinics!**

This Gather Round, we're giving **Junior Umpires** the chance to step right into the action. If you love footy and want to be part of the club clinic experience, this is your moment.

You'll be **on-field with AFL clubs**, helping run activities, umpiring mini-games, and soaking up the atmosphere alongside your favourite team. You'll even get the chance to **meet the players**, so bring something along for them to sign. SANFL Game Development staff will support you throughout the session, but you'll need to feel confident and comfortable umpiring.

#### **Important details:**

- This is an **expression of interest only**; times and locations may change.
- Open to umpires registered on OHQ **before 1 April 2026**.
- Once EOIs are received and closed off, Junior Umpires will be selected and rostered on to the clinics. Those selected will be advised and must ensure they can attend.
- Some AFL Club clinics will be run during school hours - please make sure you're available before submitting your EOI.

To nominate, head straight to [Expression of Interest – Junior Umpires to help out at AFL Club Clinics this Gather Round – Fill in form](#)

A huge opportunity to be right amongst the players!

**And don't forget the AFL Umpire Match Day Experiences – open until the end of next week to nominate: [2026 AFL Gather Round Walk-Out & Half Time Grid Games – Fill in form](#)**

These opportunities are a fantastic way to celebrate Gather Round, get inspired, and experience the elite environment up close. Don't miss out!

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## **NAB AFL Auskick Half Time is back for 2026!**

Be part of the excitement at an AFL Game Day by nominating to umpire the NAB Auskick Half Time Grid Games and enjoy the incredible experience of running around on Adelaide Oval!

To be eligible, you'll need a registered and up-to-date Officials HQ account. Once that's sorted, simply enter your name and select the games you'd like to nominate for through the link below:

### **[2026 AFL Auskick Half Time Nominations – Fill in form](#)**

Each week, umpires will be randomly chosen to take the field at AFL matches and Umpire the Half Time Auskick grid games. You only need to nominate for each game once—your name will remain in the draw for that match. If selected, you'll receive **two complimentary tickets to the match** (in lieu of payment), and all Game Day information will be sent directly to you. Best of luck securing your spot in this unforgettable match day experience!

**Please note:** Umpires aged 12 or 13 for the full season are eligible to umpire the *Auskick Minis* (Under 7s) only. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out.

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## **📌 TRIAL GAMES – AVAILABILITY NOW OPEN! – more games have been added**

Trial games for March are rolling in, and it's time for all umpires to start getting their availability in for the 2026 pre-season practice matches!

A full list of upcoming trial matches is available here: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1qs-F2-rUJg7nKWldHYDJs5pxQU2jRbuK6ZNw6ZuZto/edit?gid=1435718554#gid=1435718554>

These games are a great opportunity to:

- Get back into matchday rhythm
- Build confidence before the SANFL Juniors season starts in May
- Gain experience across different age groups and venues

To ensure fairness, appointments will be spread across umpires based on:

- Experience level
- Age grade suitability
- Venue requirements (some games are not at SANFL Juniors club venues)

### How to Nominate

Please email your availability to:

 [sanfljuniorsumpiring@sanfl.com.au](mailto:sanfljuniorsumpiring@sanfl.com.au)

Appointments will be released on the **Monday prior** to each match weekend. If you do not receive an appointment email, you will be placed on **standby**.

### Trial Game Requirements

- Registered for the **SANFL Juniors 2026 season** on Officials HQ
- **Working With Children Check** must be current and uploaded to your Officials HQ profile if you are 14 years of age and over
- **Pink uniform** required for all trial matches

**Keen to blow the whistle early? Get your availability in and be part of the action.**

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### **Junior Umpire Training – 2026 Update**

Momentum is building for the 2026 season, and we're close to locking everything in for another massive year of junior umpiring. Keep an eye out on the Junior Umpiring Hub for the Training venue & dates calendar to be updated very shortly!

All Monday sessions are confirmed and will run from 5:45pm–7:00pm at:

- Tea Tree Gully
- Seaton Ramblers
- Mitchell Park and
- Salisbury North

Tuesday nights at Morphetville Park are also locked in for 5:45pm for our Junior Field Umpires in the South-Western metro area.

We're also excited to launch our new **South/Central Junior Umpire Experienced Hub** for 2026. This hub is designed for junior umpires progressing through the Development Program, those with experience in Juniors, and umpires already stepping up to older age grades. It offers a high-energy environment where developing umpires can train together, build confidence, and take the next step in their umpiring journey.

The hub will run at:

- Park 21W (Adelaide Lutheran / Adelaide Junior Bulldogs), on the corner of Goodwood Rd and South Tce.
- Training will be held on **Tuesdays** from **5:45pm** for Field, Boundary and Goal Umpires.
- Sessions begin **April 14**, giving a strong three-week block before we get the season underway with Round 1 on May 1 and 3.

We're thrilled to welcome Jay Trebilcock and Ben Wadham as Junior Umpire Coaches at the Hub venue. Jay returns with previous experience coaching in the West, while Ben joins after a super contribution as a Junior Umpire Mentor last season. Both bring State League Umpiring experience and a wealth of knowledge. We also welcome Steven Murphy as Goal Umpire Coach. Steve has been in and around Goal Umpiring since 1990, involved at both SANFL & AFL level, and continues to Umpire currently. If Goal Umpire is your thing, join us from April 14 and give Goal Umpiring a go!

Junior Umpire venues in the Inner West and East for Tuesday nights are in the final stages of being confirmed. We apologise for the delay in announcing, and we look forward to getting that out to everyone as soon as possible.

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### **Game Ready Challenge!**

The countdown is on, and 2026 is shaping up to be a huge year for the SANFL Juniors Umpiring Program, and to kick things off with real momentum we're launching something bigger, bolder, and more engaging than ever: the **2026 SANFL Juniors Umpiring Game Ready Challenge**. This season, every bit of effort counts — literally. Throughout pre-season and all the way through the year, you'll earn points simply by getting involved and staying connected.

Get involved as much as possible by:

- Turning up to training
- Registering before key deadlines
- Completing our monthly online quizzes
- Bringing new umpires into the program
- Staying active, committed, and part of the team

Some umpires have already referred new recruits and are off to a flying start — so don't wait around. Jump in early and build your score from day one.

### **How to join the challenge:**

Simply register for Umpiring on Officials HQ for the 2026 season with SANFL Juniors. Once you're in, every action you take helps you climb the leaderboard.

More updates, surprises, and challenges will roll out across the season, so keep your eyes open and stay engaged. Details attached in the Promo PDF.

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### **Foundation Umpire Courses continue through March, April & May**

<https://sanfl.com.au/league/news/become-an-umpire/>

The 2026 Foundation Courses in Umpiring are well underway, and with only a couple of months until the SANFL Juniors season begins, the upcoming sessions are a great chance for anyone to get started in **Goal, Boundary, or Field Umpiring**. Our next sessions are:

- **Glenunga Rams – Sunday 22 March, 9:00am to 11:00am (Women & Girls in Umpiring)**
- **Goodwood Saints – Tuesday 31 March, 5:30pm to 7:30pm**
- **Pulteney Grammar School (State League Umpire Training) – Monday 27 April, Monday 11 May, and Monday 25 May (Last one!)**

Don't forget the **Gather Round Foundation Course** on **April 12** at the Footy Park Precinct, featuring **AFL Umpires** in town for Gather Round — a rare chance to learn alongside elite officials. Don't forget that our Boundary and Goal Umpiring opportunities are expanding too, with entry now at **Under 15.5 Boys Division 1**. If Goal Umpiring interests you, the Foundation Course is the perfect starting point. Now's the time to spread the word. Encourage friends, family, and teammates to get involved — Umpiring builds confidence, community, fitness, and fun, and yes, you get paid. If you've completed the Foundation Course in recent years, you're already qualified, but you're welcome to come along again to support someone new

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### **Resources – bookmark the Junior Umpire Hub!**

 <https://sanfl.com.au/juniors/junior-umpire-hub/>

Your Junior Umpire Hub is your go-to spot for everything you need this season — Laws of the Game, Match Conditions, Fees, updates, and all the essentials in one place. New 2026 content is rolling out now, including the updated Training Calendar, refreshed Match Conditions & Rules, and this year's SANFL Juniors Match Fees. More competition information will follow soon. If there's something you'd like added to the Hub, we're all ears.

#### **Updated:**

- SANFL Juniors Umpire Match Fees (including trial games and some other competitions)
- Officials HQ – all you need to know
- Match Conditions & Rules for Umpires (all competitions)
- 2026 Laws of Australian Football
- Junior Umpire Training Venue & Program Calendar

The 2026 Season Match Day Handbook is being finalised and will be available shortly.

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### **Stay Connected on Social Media**

- Instagram:  [sanfl\\_umpiring](https://www.instagram.com/sanfl_umpiring)

**And don't forget the offer to all Registered Umpires for the Ultimate Football Memberships!**

**The Ultimate Football Membership gives members guaranteed access to every AFL Premiership Season match played at Adelaide Oval, covering both Crows and Port Adelaide home games.**

Unreserved seating at all AFL matches at Adelaide Oval, ensuring members can attend every game without needing to purchase individual tickets, offering a premium match-day social experience.

**This membership is positioned as the most comprehensive way to experience football at Adelaide Oval, combining convenience, premium access, and strong value for frequent attendees.**

As a registered umpire and valuable member of our football community this season, you can purchase a 2026 Ultimate Football Membership for just \$585 for an adult membership (normally priced at \$785). This offer can be purchase via the link below.

<https://adelaideoval.memberlink.net.au/serieevents/EAOM0000026OX/tickets/?ep=UMPIRE>

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### **Keeping the Pre-Season Rolling**

We're now a week deeper into the 2026 pre-season, and the pace is only picking up. With SANFL Schools Gather Round well underway, Trial Games starting from tomorrow, and Junior Clubs settling into their training rhythm, this is the time of year when habits form and our group really starts to sharpen.

Training programs begin very soon — strong numbers, great energy, and plenty of umpires stepping up ready to run. Staying involved over the next few weeks helps us build consistency, strengthen our group, and make sure everyone hits the season ready and confident. Whether you've already blown the whistle this year or you're still deciding how you want to be involved, there's a place for you. Every umpire adds value, and the door is always open.

Our email distribution list has also been refreshed for 2026. If you'd like to be removed, or if someone needs to be added, just let us know. And if you're thinking about returning, want to pick up more games, or simply want to chat about your umpiring journey, reach out anytime at [sanfljuniorsumpiring@sanfl.com.au](mailto:sanfljuniorsumpiring@sanfl.com.au). We're here to support you as we push through March and into the season proper.