



To all AFL HCC Clubs

The NCCUA Committee and Members would like to thank all the clubs for your support of our team across the Community Umpiring Round.

It takes a village to put together our games every week and we very much appreciate all the volunteers in clubland who help out every week - those who put on the Ground Manager's Vest and support us, the parents who run water and messages and stand in the goals rather than relax on the sideline watching their kids play - we couldn't do it without you. Not to mention the many people who help out in the canteen and feed us all!

And a special thank you to the players - without you, we wouldn't have a game to umpire. One of the things that keeps us coming back week in and week out, is the amazing displays of sporting prowess that you demonstrate every week. We really do have the best view of the game and we thank you for your commitment to growing this great game.

This year has been another difficult start for the NCCUA - we have lost some of our best and brightest to the Sydney and Melbourne umpiring groups. We are working hard to develop our up and comers to reach their potential and to umpire the senior games. We do ask for your patience with our newest umpires, they are trying their best and we want them to succeed, to not be scared to walk out in the middle for fear of hearing negative comments and we want them to take all the lessons they learn this year and come back next year stronger.

Please, if you see an umpire after their game, be the person who thanks them for what they do, not the one who criticises them for the bad call they made in the heat of the moment. It could be your kind word that makes the difference and encourages them to try again, to review the rules so they don't make that one bad call again.

We have had some truly heartwarming stories shared from around the grounds, thank you to those clubs who went the extra mile to provide lunch, sports drinks or lollies to our umpires to show your appreciation of what they do. Thank you also to the ones who asked "are you ok?" when things were not going quite so smoothly - I always tell our umpires that WE have their backs; it is good to know that you do as well.

I hope that we can all work together in 2025 to build a strong contingent of umpires in our region, to support and develop them to ensure that 2026 is even better.

Thank you!
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