



UMPIRE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

UMPIRING MYTHS

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MYTH 1: YOU GAVE THEM THE GAME UMPIRE, GIVE YOURSELF 3 VOTES!

Fact: Umpires rarely look at the score and do not really care who wins. Umpires are on the ground to be impartial and ensure the game is played in a safe and fair manner.

MYTH 2: THE FREE KICK COUNT IS 2-1, GIVE US A GO!

Fact: I do not know any umpires who can tell me at the end of a game how many free kicks they paid. Umpires will pay what they see. It is normally the team that has the most possessions and is more disciplined that receives the majority of free kicks.

MYTH 3: YOU COST US THE GAME UMPIRE!

Fact: The reality is that umpires never cause a team to lose. To blame an umpire for a loss is a team not taking responsibility for its actions. Umpires, by the nature of their job, definitely have influence in a game, but they never cost a team the game.

MYTH 4: UMPIRING IS HARDER THAN PLAYING

Fact: Playing is definitely harder than umpiring. Sure umpires have to run hard and make pressure decisions but so do players. Players have to make these decisions when being tackled, backing into marking contests and trying to win a game for their team.

MYTH 5: YOU HAVE TO PLAY THE GAME TO BE A GOOD UMPIRE

Fact: It definitely helps if you have played but providing the umpire has good people skills in communication and a good understanding of the laws of the game, you do not necessarily have had to play to be a good umpire.

MYTH 6: UMPIRES ARE ROBOTS

Fact: All umpires are passionate about their job just like players, coaches and managers. Umpiring can be very negative at times and this gives an impression that umpires do not have a personality. If there's an opportunity for an umpire to share a joke with a player, they will.

Thanks to AFL Queensland Umpire Development Officer Andrew Cross for his contribution to this item.