

SANFLUA PUBLICATION

BALL UP

ISSUE 1, 2024



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...And Much More

SANFL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT'S PEN

Round 1 here we are! For most it's been a long preseason slog but it all starts again now. I'd like to take this opportunity to commend you all on the efforts you have gone to over the last two and a half months. The group is looking absolutely sensational on the track at the moment and from what I've been seeing there has been a large improvement on the culture around the track. I hope this continues to strengthen into the year.

Our membership numbers have got off to a great start, almost surpassing last year's total already. The membership BBQ was a great contributor in this with plenty of umpires signing up on the night. For those that are still yet to join you still have plenty of time to do so however signing up with our match fee deduction option is fast approaching its deadline of April 1st. I encourage those that are members to get around your mate that may not be on board and let them know why it is beneficial to become a member.

This year already the Association has been hard at work. Earlier this year it was brought to the SABFLUA's attention that umpires were not being remunerated for their services during 'Match Simulations.' This was told that the match was in lieu of a training session, which the Association believes was somewhat unfair. However, some of these games were found to be blowing out a lot longer than that of a training session as well as not being held on the training nights they were in lieu of. It was found that the clubs were somewhat abusing umpire's free services at no cost to them. I was quick to get wind of this and thought we needed to step in. After some conversations with the League, it was decided that umpires would be paid for ALL match simulations from that point on. Unfortunately, no back pay was offered to those that had gone out of their way from the start. I will be making sure to keep an eye on this in the future. I personally thank all of you that did a match and were not rewarded for your time and effort. Your dedication does not go unnoticed. If you're not too sure what the SANFLUA is all about, and you see it as more of a social association then this is a prime example of the kind of good work that goes on behind the scenes to get you guys the fair go you deserve.

Unfortunately, as most are aware, we still are training at Pulteney Grammar. Whispers late last year of a training venue change were well received, however, this seems to have fallen through. Although Pulteney is in fair condition at the moment, I'm worried that we will have a repeat of last year during the wet months forcing training to be cancelled or moved to subpar services resulting in injuries like were seen last year. The Association would really like to see some change in this space soon as it has been our #1 issue for a number of years now.

In the coming weeks we will be releasing our social calendar. If you're new to the association this is a great way to get out and meet some new people that you might not otherwise socialise with. I know that from my early years as a member these were very beneficial to me, meeting new people and building friendships that are still strong today some 13 years on. I look forward to catching plenty of Life Members and members at these events so keep an eye out in its release.

SANFL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

I'd like to welcome a new committee member this year in Giles Lewis. Giles comes to us with a wide range of skills that I believe will benefit the Association. We have decided to create a portfolio for Giles in Members Representative. Having this will create another avenue for members to come to the Association with their queries, troubles and ideas. I look forward to seeing Giles be a strong contributor.

Chirs Rabin will continue to assist the committee. He will still be helping and coordinating a lot of the sponsorship portfolio. I'd like to thank Chris for his time as an official committee member. His hard work and dedication has shown through in al great sponsors and donations that we received in 2022 and 2023.

I look forward to seeing what the 2024 season has instore for the Association and umpiring as a whole. I know we will tackle anything that is thrown at us. Please, if you haven't yet, sign up. The SANFLUA remains a strong voice for its members and if we can get as many umpires on board it makes it easier for us to press issues that we are faced with.

Please don't hesitate to get in contact with me or any of my committee members if you have an queries or issues that you'd like to raise. All the best for your 2024 season I'm sure you will all continue to show how strong of an umpiring group we all.

We're in this together.

Braden Ford – SANFLUA President

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2024 SOCIAL CALENDAR

After Match Catch Up @ The Astor Hotel

Saturday 20 April from 6pm

Life Members Luncheon @ The Britannia Hotel

Sunday 28 April 12:30pm

X – Golf @ West Lakes (Football Park)

Saturday 11 May 7:00pm

After Match Catch Up @ The Astor Hotel

Saturday 8 June from 6pm

Further events to follow – subject to SANFL floating fixture

SANFL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

SANFL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

2024 marks my second year of holding the Publications Portfolio for the SANFLUA and it is another year of continuing to learn to ropes. It was great to hear all the positive feedback from members and Life Members last year on each edition of Ball Up. I hope I can continue to make each edition enjoyable for all readers. I'm looking at bringing back some previous segments from yesteryear as well as continuing popular segments such as Crag's Q n A. To all umpires, enjoy season 2024 and continue to push yourselves and umpire to your best standard.

I hope you enjoy this edition of Ball Up!

By Brad Hammer.



SANFL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

SANFL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

2024 SANFLUA COMMITTEE

In 2024, the SANFLUA Committee sees minimal change personnel wise. Braden Ford enters his second year as President, as to does Aaron Bennett as Secretary and Sean Burton continues as Treasurer.

Cameron Scott continues to hold Communications, Michael Button and Taylah Parker jointly hold Social Secretary, Brad Hammer stays on Publications and Kylan Beech continues as Social Media. Abdul Alpaslan continues as Property Steward, Steven Paunovic stays with Statistics and Craig Trewartha holds Life Members.

During our AGM, which was well attended, we welcomed a new Committee member in Giles Lewis, who will become a Members Representative (another pathway for our members to discuss their needs with a Committee member). Giles brings a wealth of knowledge in the umpiring landscape as a field umpire, currently on 146 League games and he has also umpired at the highest level. Giles, welcome aboard and we hope you enjoy the experience.

Chris Rabin was not re-elected as a Committee member but will thanklessly continue to unofficially assist with Sponsorship. Chris, thank you for all your hard work as an official SANFLUA Committee member and thank you for continuing to assist us ongoing. Your work does not go unnoticed.

Finally, thank you to all those that attended this year's AGM at the Astor Hotel and we look forward to seeing you on the track and at our social events throughout the year.

By SANFLUA Committee.



Braden Ford
PRESIDENT



Aaron Bennett
SECRETARY



Sean Burton
TREASURER



Giles Lewis
MEMBERS REP



Cameron Scott
COMMUNICATIONS



Michael Button
SOCIAL SECRETARY



Taylah Parker
SOCIAL SECRETARY



Brad Hammer
PUBLICATIONS



Kylan Beech
SOCIAL MEDIA



Abdul Alpaslan
PROPERTY



Craig Trewartha
LIFE MEMBERS



Steven Paunovic
STATISTICS

SANFL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

2024 SANFLUA COMMITTEE

AARON BENNETT:

Started umpiring in 2005 SASFA South Adelaide.

Year started in SANFL and discipline: 2011 – Field.

Why you started umpiring: To stay involved in the game, not much of a player.

SANFL milestones: 2011 SANFL U16 GF, 2016 and 2019 Reserves GF, 2015 and 2016 NAB AFL U18, 2016 AFL GF Talent Game Curtain Raiser, 2017 AIS National Officiating Scholarship, 2018 SANFLUA Most Dedicated Field Umpire, 2021 Andrew Vickers Medal.

Hobbies and occupation: Supporting Aston Villa, travelling, critiquing chicken Parmis, business account manager at Officeworks.

Why you joined the committee: I joined in 2017 as I felt my passion for umpiring, ability to generate relevant, fun ideas and sense of creativity could make a positive difference to the Association. 7 years later. I'm still enjoying as much as ever.

MICHAEL BUTTON:

Started umpiring in Western Border Football League (Mount Gambier) in 2008.

Year started in SANFL and discipline: 2016 as a Goal Umpire.

Why you started umpiring: Goal Umpiring appealed to me being a footy nerd and I was never going to make it as a player.

SANFL milestones: League debut 2016, Reserves GF 2018, Most Improved Goal Umpire 2016 & 2020, State Game 2022, League GF 2022.

Hobbies and occupation: Work as a land surveyor. Watching any sport and spending time with family and friends enjoying good food and drink.

Why you joined the committee: Knowing there was going to be a rollover with some experienced committee members thought it was time for me to put my hand up and serve for the SANFLUA which does so much for its members.

GILES LEWIS:

Rejoined SANFL in 2015.

Why you joined the SANFL: recommended by Colin Rowston to rejoin after umpiring Div 1 Grand Final in Adelaide Footy League.

SANFL milestones: 2015 Reserves Grand Final, 2015 Mark J Posa Award, 2016 Most Improved, 2017 League Grand Final.

Hobbies and occupation: works for Australia Post.

Why you joined the committee: joined the committee as I wanted to give back to umpiring and I know it's a lot of time and effort to run a strong association. I felt my experience and being a senior field umpire could help support the association.

BRAD HAMMER:

Started umpiring in Panther League as a field umpire in 2009 (primary school footy).

Year started in SANFL and discipline: 2014 as a Goal Umpire (I saw the light).

Why you started umpiring: Goal Umpiring just naturally appealed to me after being invited to SANFL summer training in 2013.

SANFL milestones: League debut 2017, Most Improved in 2017, Mark J Posa Award in 2018, Reserves GF 2017, 2018 and 2021.

Hobbies and occupation: social worker in education and I enjoy most things sport, spending time with family and going out with mates.

Why you joined the committee: to give back to umpiring in some form and give back to the SANFLUA, which does so much for umpires and support staff.

SANFL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

CAMERON SCOTT:

Started umpiring in what league: Glenelg School Football Association (Primary School Football).

Year started in SANFL and discipline: Started in the early 2000's as a field umpire.

Why you started umpiring: Started umpiring because I worked out that I wasn't going to play footy at a high level.

SANFL milestones: Umpired the 2022 SANFLW Grand Final at Coopers Stadium.

Hobbies and occupation: Playing golf, watching all kinds of sport, travel and visiting breweries and wineries with friends. Police Officer.

Why you joined the committee: I joined the committee to have a bit of a voice for the SANFLW panel.

BRADEN FORD:

Started umpiring in what league: NEMJFA.

Year started in SANFL and discipline: 2011 as a Goal Umpire.

Why you started umpiring: Grandad use to umpire so I thought I'd give it a try.

SANFL milestones: 2015 League Debut, 2022 and 2023 SANFL GF, 2022 Golden Flags.

Hobbies and occupation: Manager.

TAYLAH PARKER:

I began my umpiring journey in 2018 at a Basic umpires course at AAMI stadium. I had never played football myself however had a small running background at the time, having completed a few half marathons and loved football so though may as well give it a go. From here I was invited out to the SANFL Academy group that year as a boundary umpire.

SANFL milestones: Under 18 SANFL men's Grand final and was awarded the Stan Whickem award. I was then moved to the senior squad in 2021. In 2023 I have also taken on a leadership role in coaching the SANFL junior umpires with helping promote more females into the sport.

Hobbies and occupation: Studying Medical Imaging as well as work both at orthopaedics SA and The Athletes foot. I race track in pro running in events such as Bay Sheffield and Stawell Gift.

Why you joined the committee: I wanted to help bring together the umpiring community and promote an environment where others could combine and socialise and build connections. I also wanted to provide a female voice to the committee which could promote female numbers within the umpiring community in South Australia.

SEAN BURTON:

Year started in SANFL: 2003 as a boundary.

SANFL milestones: 200 League games, Silver Whistle in 2013. 2011, 2012, 2013, 2015 and 2016 SANFL League GF.

Hobbies and occupation: Senior manager at Audit & Assurance Grant Thornton.

Why you joined the committee: To help umpires and give back to the community.

SANFL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

CRAIG TREWARTHA:

Year started in SANFL and discipline: 1967 and field umpire.

Why you started umpiring: Injured whilst playing for North Adelaide under18.

SANFL milestones: Norwood/North district GF at 21 in 1971. 1900 senior games. 1 league game. Bangkok for final of the Asian league.

Hobbies and occupation: Accountant and Financial business coach.

Why you joined the committee: It was expected back in 1967.

STEVEN PAUNOVIC:

Started umpiring in 1998 in SANFL (High Schools, then Independent Schools) and retired at the end of the 2017 season.

Why you started umpiring: Knew I couldn't play, wanted to be involved, in particular always watched the Goal Umpires.

SANFL milestones: League debut 2002, 200th League 2015, League GF in 2009 and 2014, Golden Flags in 2014, AFL from 2010-2011, Mark J Posa Award in 2001.

Occupation - SANFL Juniors Umpiring Coordinator.

I joined the committee to be a part of making a difference. In 2017, I was tasked with bringing all of the SANFL Umpires Stats and Profiling together which was always a hobby of mine for my own. Keeping the information together is vital for all our members.

ABDUL ALPASLAN:

Started umpiring in 1996 and first SANFL match in 1997.

Retired from umpiring in 2007 with 21 league games and now current senior squad goal umpire coach.

Hobbies and occupation: currently working at Adelaide Oval and spending time with family.

Currently undertaking the property portfolio in SANFLUA and have done so for many years.

KYLAN BEECH:

Started umpiring in 2016 at the SANFL as a boundary umpire for a year and then came back in 2019 as a field umpire.

Why you started umpiring: Started when I was 10, a family friend got me into it.

SANFL milestones: 50+ SANFL games, SANFLW GF and U16 GF.

Why you joined the committee: Umpiring is my biggest passion and I want people to love the social aspect of umpiring. The comradery can change an umpire's look on umpiring massively!

SANFL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

SANFLUA MEMBERSHIP BBQ

2024 has seen the continuing of the traditional and highly popular SANFLUA BBQ membership drive. The membership BBQ offers all our previous members and new ones a chance to mingle across all disciplines over a snag or two and sign up for the coming year.

As most would have heard and seen, we have a new membership structure, gold, silver and bronze. This aligns us with other umpire associations around the country and is a more streamlined structure. It is highly recommended that all Reserves and League umpires purchase a gold membership. Silver is recommended for support staff and interstate umpires and bronze is recommended for new umpires that have not been members before.

The entire Committee would like to thank those that all signed up for 2024, new and old! This year's BBQ was a huge success and our membership numbers are already very close to the high levels we saw last year and it is only the start of the season!

This year the Committee provided all of those that signed up with a SANFLUA beanie, not to be worn at end of season trips though. The SANFLUA would like to thank all those that helped on the night.

If you haven't signed up yet and would like too, please head to <https://www.sanflua.com.au/membership>

All memberships are tax deductible and to our first-year members, welcome aboard. We look forward to seeing you all at our first social event.

By SANFLUA Committee

SANFLUA MEMBERSHIP FEES

GOLD MEMBERSHIP (Full)

- 76th Annual Dinner ticket included
- SANFLUA Beanie
- SANFLUA shop discount
- Subsidised social events
- Association support with umpiring manners
- Voting rights at AGM and special meetings

\$170

SILVER MEMBERSHIP

- Access to subsidised ticket for 76th Annual Dinner
- SANFLUA Beanie
- SANFLUA shop discount
- Subsidised social events
- Association support with umpiring manners
- Voting rights at AGM and special meetings

\$80

BRONZE MEMBERSHIP

- Access to subsidised ticket for 76th Annual Dinner
- SANFLUA Beanie
- SANFLUA shop discount
- Subsidised social events
- Association support with umpiring manners

\$40



2024 Membership

Founded in 1947, the South Australian National Football League Umpires Association (SANFLUA) is a not for profit organisation representing the needs and interests of South Australian umpires officiating at SANFL and AFL level.

SANFL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

SANFL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

GATHER ROUND STATE GAME AND BBQ FUNDRAISER

Saturday the 6th of April saw the return of the Croweaters playing off against the Big V. The SANFLUA would like to congratulate the following umpires on their selection to this State Game. Sam Morgan, Mitchell Scott, Jack Howard (Vic), Michael Sboro (Emg), Taylor Dorsey, Jake Creasey, Tobin Dolman, Anthony Laughton (Vic), Braden Ford, James Rizio (Vic) and Bradley Hammer (Emg). The day itself turned out to be a cracker day down at The Bay, with just over 4,000 in attendance. The game was close all day, with the SANFL pulling away slightly in the second half, claiming bragging rights. After the game, the umpires were invited to the after-match function, with free West Ends! The SANFLUA would like to thank the SANFL for allowing the umpires into this function. The SANFLUA heard however, that both Braden and Brad drove, so they could not indulge themselves with too many frothies. Poor form boys!

On the Thursday night of Gather Round, the SANFLUA were invited to host a BBQ at Elder Park. This was a great chance to have the SANFLUA name put out there for people to see but to also raise some much-needed funds for the Association. The final figures are yet to be counted but we believe the money raised was very substantial.

By SANFLUA Committee.



SANFL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

SANFL LIFE MEMBERSHIP

The SANFLUA would like to congratulate recently retired Goal Umpire Mathew Wilson and Boundary Umpire Damian Robinson on being awarded SANFL Umpire Life Membership during the SANFL's AGM.

Both umpires ticked over the 200 League Game mark last year, meaning they now take place in this very prestigious group and it is very much deserved!

The SANFLUA are extremely proud of both Willow and Damo, who have been incredible representatives of umpiring for many years and have set the standards in each of their disciplines incredibly high!

Here's what Willow had to say about the honour:

"An absolute honour. Something that wouldn't have been possible without the continued support and care from my coaches, teammates, friends and family. Congratulations to Damian Robinson also, a privilege to share this with him."

We also have it on good authority that Willow did not have a drop of alcohol during the AGM, when drinks were supplied, which is an absolute shock!

By SANFLUA Committee.



SANFL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION



WHO AM I



Person 1 – goal umpire

My official League debut is unknown, in the early 90's.
I have been involved in 3 League Grand Finals (once as an emergency).
I won the Andrew Vickers Medallion in 2011.
My 100th and 200th League games were at Norwood Oval.
I umpired 74 AFL games.
I was inducted as a SANFL and SANFLUA Life Member in 2013.
I debuted in U14's in 2024.
Answer below 2024 SANFLUA sponsors.

Person 2 – field umpire

My League debut was round 13, 2007.
I have been involved in 4 League Grand Finals (once as an emergency).
I was inducted as a SANFLUA Life Member in 2022.
I have umpired League games in Mannum, Balaklava, Kadina and Bordertown.
I umpired the 2018 & 19 State Games.
I umpired AFLW in 2017 and 18.
My 200th League game was round 8 2017, Sturt v Norwood.
Answer below 2024 SANFLUA sponsors.



Person 3 – goal umpire

I've umpired 116 League games and 47 AFL games.
I've umpired 2 League Grand Finals (2010 & 17).
I'm a past SANFLUA President.
I won the Golden Flags in 2010 & 17.
I started as a boundary umpire in the Spencer Gulf Football League in 1998.
I was inducted as a SANFLUA Life Member in 2023.
On the track, many would have heard me replicate the mighty Rex Hunt's commentary.

Answer below 2024 SANFLUA sponsors.



SANFL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

Inaugural U14's

In late February, the SANFL launched the inaugural U14's competition that included 7 rounds of footy. The SANFLUA would like to congratulate and thank all umpires that took part in this new competition. The field and boundary umpires consisted of Development Squad umpires, while the goalies were from the Academy Squad.

Umpiring wise, this competition opens the door for umpires to start their journey at the SANFL from a younger age and this will only benefit each umpire as they move through the grades.

In a light-hearted moment amongst the goalies, veteran goal umpire Steven Murphy made his U 14's debut on the 16th of April, which was met with a large applause and some remarks the old Galloping Goalie would be impressed by. We have no doubt that Murph would have helped his partner during the match and offered some valuable coaching.

By SANFLUA Committee



SANFL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

2024 SANFLW STATE GAME

Congratulations to 3 young and up coming umpires in Joshua Abbott (field), Emma Jones (boundary) and Patrick Backshall (Goal) for their appointments to the inaugural SANFLW State Game.

We heard that all 3 umpires represented themselves and our state well and we hope they enjoyed the experience!

By SANFLUA Committee



SANFL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

SANFLUA SHOP AND 2023 YEARBOOK

The SANFLUA Shop is now active! The SANFLUA Shop makes it easy for members to purchase discounted umpiring equipment, SANFLUA merchandise, social event tickets and more. This is a members only platform, so if you need some equipment at a discounted price, please become a SANFLUA member. The SANFLUA Shop can be found via the following link.

<https://www.sanflua.com.au/shop>

A 2023 SANFLUA Yearbook has also been created during the off season. If you are yet to purchase one, you can buy one through the SANFLUA Shop. The yearbook offers a chance for readers to look back on the highlights of the 2023 season, including Life Member inductees, umpiring statistics, the Annual Report for 2023 and our award winners.

By SANFLUA Committee.



SANFL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

SANFL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

CADBURY SHARES HIT THE TON

In 2016, a young man from Mount Gambier joined the SANFL after umpiring in the Mount Gambier Footy League for many years. He came with plenty of people highlighting his umpiring ability and he did not disappoint! I haven't been around for too long but the only person I know of to umpire League footy in their first year of SANFL is Michael 'Choccy' Button. Since then, he has gone on to umpire a Reserves Grand Final, a State game in Perth, a League Grand Final and is currently on the AFLW Panel. For those that don't know, Choc's nickname originated from the old Cadbury chocolate buttons that are no longer on the shelves, which is a crime in itself!

Outside of umpiring, Choc works as a surveyor and is currently waiting for his house to be completed (which continues to have delays but I last heard this will be completed in 2087). Choc and I did not talk much in our early years as we were both very introverted but thankfully alcohol changed this and we are great mates, as are most with Choc. Choc is always up for a healthy discussion about umpiring and life, which I heavily appreciate. He offers support when needed and helps keep trainings and gamedays enjoyable and is a very dedicated umpire.

Two moments over my short time of knowing Choc stick out. The first one was the Golden Whistle after party in 2017, where Matthew Norton took us all to Mary's and the look in Choc's face was a look I'll probably never see again. And secondly, his time as an influencer a few years back when Choc cracked the 100-follower mark on Insta! 'mbutt0n' is his name for those that want to follow him. He hasn't posted in a while though, which is disappointing.

The boy from the Mount is now a man! Who knows, they may build a statue of him at the Mount Gambier Oval one day. Let's hope it's a tad bigger than Mark Rucciuto's. Choc, I hope the next 100 games are just as enjoyable as your first hundred. And who knows, maybe that'll include some AFL games and another visit to Mary's.

By Brad Hammer.

STATISTICS

Joined SANFL in 2016

100th League Game: Round 1, 2024

Reserves Grand Final: 2018

League Grand Final: 2022

State Game in 2022

Current AFLW Goal Umpire



SANFL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

TD HITS 100

A huge congratulations to Taylor Dorsey, or as the group affectionately knows him "Dorse" for reaching his 100th SANFL League Game! Dorse started out at the SANFL in 2017 and quickly made his mark rising to the top level in Round 10 of 2018.

Since then, Dorse has had a massive impact both on and off the field, driving standards, being a great leader and role model and proving hard work and consistency pays off. His accomplishments are nothing shy of elite to this point, Dorse has the Mark J Posa (Most Outstanding New Talent Award), 2 State Games to his name and the 2022 SANFL League Grand Final under his belt, with no doubt more to come.

With the many games I have run with Dorse, his team first mentality shines through the brightest, along with his desire to not just better himself but the crew along with him on any given weekend. I've been fortunate enough to spend countless hours outside of training and games with Dorse, working hard to improve ourselves. His dedication to get 1% better every time is truly inspiring and I feel very fortunate to have a work Dorse like him to lean on through the highs and lows of umpiring.

Congratulations again Dorse on your 100th League Game and thanks for allowing me to share that very special game with you, something I'm extremely proud to have been apart of. Halfway to 200 mate, let's keep going!

By Dylan Speck.

STATISTICS

Joined SANFL in 2017.

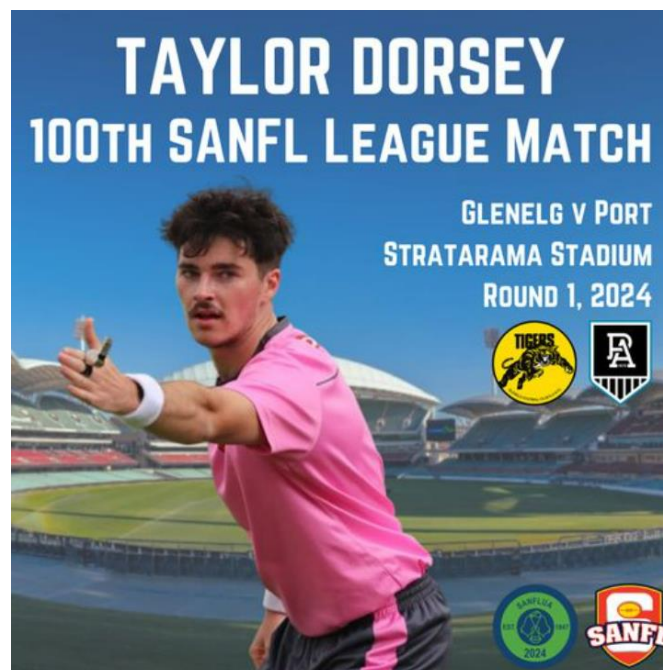
League debut in Round 10, 2018

2022 SANFL League Grand Final

2 State Games.

Mark J Posa Award.

100th League Game in Round 1, 2024.



SANFL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

ACE DEBUTS

Coming from a distinguished background as a former Eagles junior premierships player and the esteemed recipient of the 2013 McCallum-Tomkiins Medallist for the SANFL Under 18 Best & Fairest competition, Ace has proven himself as an outstanding talent in the realm of footy.

Post playing career, Ace switched to umpiring. He joined the SANFL's umpiring ranks in 2021 after a brief stint with the Adelaide Footy League. Ace was recognised for his great season in 2022 with selection to the SANFL Under 18 Grand Final.

Known as being one of the nicest blokes in footy, Ace's journey to his debut in the South Adelaide v Adelaide Crows game at Noarlunga in Round 1 is a testament to his unwavering commitment and dedication to his craft. His promotion to league footy is a well-deserved reward for his relentless pursuit of excellence, particularly evident in his diligent efforts to refine his bouncing technique, which has now become remarkably consistent.

Ace carries with him not only his impressive skill set but also the respect and admiration of everyone who knows him. No doubt this is just the beginning of a distinguished career at SANFL league level. Here's to many more successful moments ahead in his umpiring career. From the entire group, congratulations Ace!

By Aaron Bennett.

STATISTICS

Joined SANFL in 2021, from Adelaide Footy League.

League debut: round 1, 2024.

Under 18's Grand Final: 2022.



SANFL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

DEBUT FOR HASKARD

Congratulations are in order for James Haskard, who made his SANFL League debut on the boundary in Round 2 of this season. He umpired this very special milestone in front of a strong crowd, for the Norwood vs Glenelg match up.

James arrived at League level at a rapid pace, umpiring some reserves games last season and being elevated to the Senior Squad at the beginning of this year.

His debut was announced to the umpiring the Wednesday night before his big game, by Boundary coach Quentin Brewer, who made mention of James' very impressive preseason and how he fully deserved League selection.

This goes to show, even if you have had a short time on the SANFL list, that umpiring at League level can be done.

The SANFLUA would like to wish James a long League career and maybe an opportunity at AFL will open up one day!

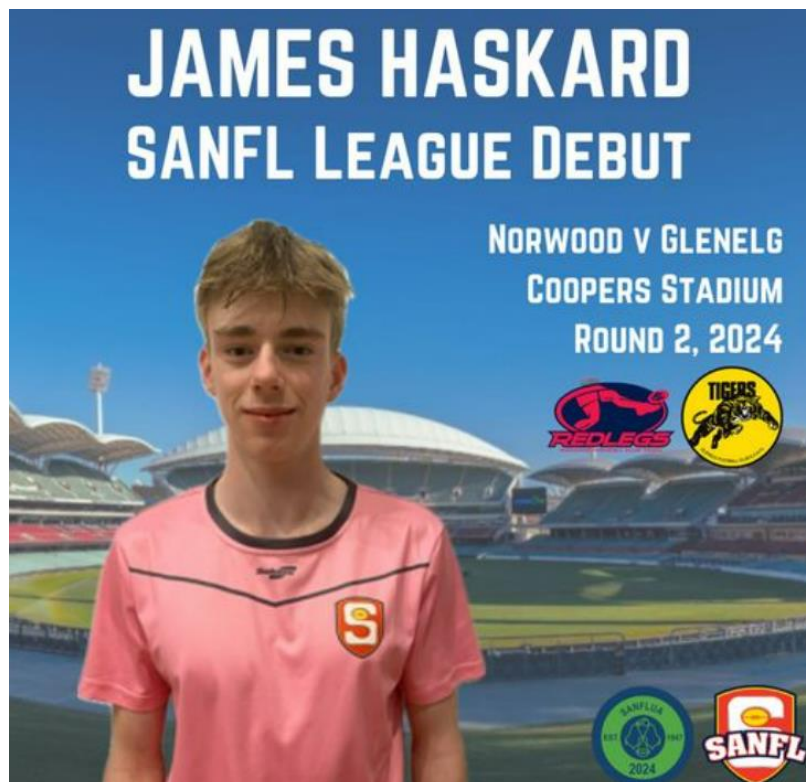
By SANFLUA committee.

STATISTICS

Joined SANFL in 2023.

League debut, round 2, 2024.

Senior Squad elevation in 2024.



SANFL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

RETURN OF THE OX!

When it was announced that Tom would be umpiring his 1st League Match, there was extra excitement for me as I was given the nod to partner him. Umpiring with a debutant always makes match day that little bit more fun. I have Umpired with Tom at Reserves Level, and seeing him train, it was always evident that it was only a matter of when, not if, Tom would progress to League Level.

I have no doubt Tom would have Umpired at League Level in 2023, if not for his commitment to his Year 12 Studies. Tom's decision to concentrate on his studies paid off for him and it's great to see that his League Debut came early in 2024.

His progression to League is testament to his ability to always want to improve, he seeks out feedback and most importantly always listens. His polite manner will take him a long way not only in life, but within Umpiring. His future is bright.

As it turned out, Tom's Debut match would be 1st v 2nd and although early in the season, umpiring two teams that are up and about is always enjoyable. Whilst I had all the play early, Tom eased into the game. However, he showed very quickly why he was given his opportunity, with his first decision of the match requiring 100% concentration, with a goal line straddle, the ball close to hands and his left-hand goal post, with the ball falling just over the line for a goal. That decision kick started what would go on to be, a solid and great debut game.

Congratulations once again Tom. It was a pleasure to officiate in your League Debut Match and I look forward to watching your goal umpiring career progress further. It's a match that will be a highlight for me.

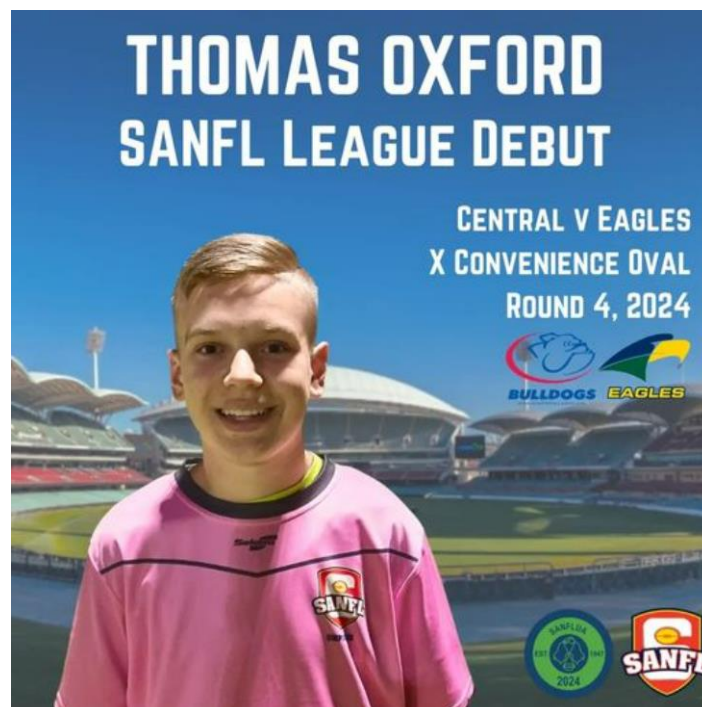
By Matt Cummins.

STATISTICS

Joined SANFL in 2023

League debut in round 4 2024.

Emergency for 2023 Reserves Grand Final.



SANFL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

SBORO HITS 150

Massive congratulations go to Michael 'Boro' Sboro for reaching the milestone of 150 SANFL League games. It's a huge achievement. Michael is a very popular member of the field umpiring group, so it was a milestone celebrated by many.

League spots were very tight at the time Michael made his League debut in 2014, so his path to his 50th League match was dotted with some reserves matches. His last 100 games have been accumulated at a far more consistent rate than his first 50, which is pleasing to see.

Michael is a very busy man off the field too. He is deputy principal at a leading primary school, husband, father and an exemption triathlete who is on the verge of selection for the 2024 Paris Olympics.

It would be remiss of me not to mention that he has now also drunk a milkshake on 150 separate occasions the night before a game, tucked into 150 bags of Cheekies in the changerooms, boxed at shadows 150 times, shred 150 bikkies prior to leaving the changerooms, sung at least 150 national anthems on his walk to the middle and on at least 150 occasions, commenced his pre-game warm up jog 15 metres before reaching the centre circle leaving his fellow umpires in his wake.

Michael had a very successful 2023 campaign which saw him running in the preliminary final and emergency for the Grand Final. He is very modest and has told many people that he would be the furthest he goes in a finals campaign. As well as being involved in his first state game against Victoria, my sources tell me that he has been in very good form for the first five rounds of this season, so 2024 may just be the year when he makes his Grand Final debut. Congratulations again Michael.

By Thomas Burke.

STATISTICS

Leaue debut in 2014.

Emergency Field Umpire for 2024 League Grand Final.

150 SANFL League Games.



SANFL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

GILES REACHES 150

From myself and on behalf of the umpiring group, a massive congratulations to Giles Lewis on reaching-on-reaching game 150.

I first met Giles in 2017. It was games night, and we were both wearing Everton Football Club shirts for soccer. It was safe to say we have still never had a positive conversation about the Everton Football Club. There were plenty of positives in 2017 for Giles though. A SANFL Grand Final appointment followed by an AFL Rookie listing. He spent 6 years on that list alongside his SANFL Umpiring commitments. In that time Giles umpired 3 AFL matches and was a mentor to many field umpires in the SANFL ranks. Your knowledge of the game and your ability to tell us young blokes how it goes under the radar.

Giles, it is great having you around the group. You provide everyone plenty of entertainment at training and on match days, but are always serious when it counts. We all still have a lot to learn from you and here's to 150 more.

By Jack Millar.

STATISTICS

League debut: round 9 2015.

Rejoined SANFL in 2015, from Adelaide Footy League.

Umpired 3 AFL games.

2017 SANFL Grand Final.



SANFL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

300 AFL GAMES FOR THIELE

Congratulations to South Aussie born and bred AFL boundary umpire Shane Thiele, who ran his 300th AFL game in the round 7 contest between Geelong and Carlton at the MCG.

Shane commenced umpiring in the SANFL in 2002 and went on to umpire 3 SANFL League Grand Finals before being AFL listed in 2009.

Shane debuted in Round 1 of that year in the game between Port Adelaide and Essendon at AAMI Stadium. Shane then moved to Melbourne, where his AFL career continued to shine.

Absolutely adored by his peers, Shane's selflessness and kindness to lend his support and guidance to many upcoming umpires both on and off the field, has seen them also be successful and reach their goals. A truly inspiring individual.

Fellow South Aussie Chris Bull joined Shane for the game in Melbourne. Congratulations, Shane! You're always one of the first to celebrate others' achievements, but this is YOUR moment! We hope you had an incredible night.

By SANFLUA Committee.

STATISTICS

Started umpiring with SANFL in 2002.

3 SANFL League Grand Finals.

AFL debut round 1, 2009.

300th AFL game, round 7, 2024



SANFL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

200 AFL GAMES FOR HOSK

Congratulations to South Australian AFL Goal Umpire Daniel Hoskin, who umpired his 200th AFL match in Round 8 of the AFL season, with Richmond playing Fremantle at the MCG.

Daniel developed his craft at SANFL level, recruited in the year 2000, and was elevated to the AFL list in 2009 where he made his debut.

Daniel has spent the majority of his AFL career being Adelaide based. However, he did also enjoy a stint living in Queensland, which provided a fantastic opportunity for Daniel to experience AFL footy from another perspective.

Daniel, the SANFLUA hope you enjoyed your day and are able to reflect back on what a great achievement this is. Not many go on to umpire AFL, let alone 200 games!

By SANFLUA Committee.

STATISTICS

Started umpiring with SANFL in 2000.

AFL debut 2009.

200th AFL game, round 8, 2024.

2007 SANFL Grand Final.



SANFL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

SANFLW MILESTONES

Congratulations to the following SANFLW umpires on their personal milestones.

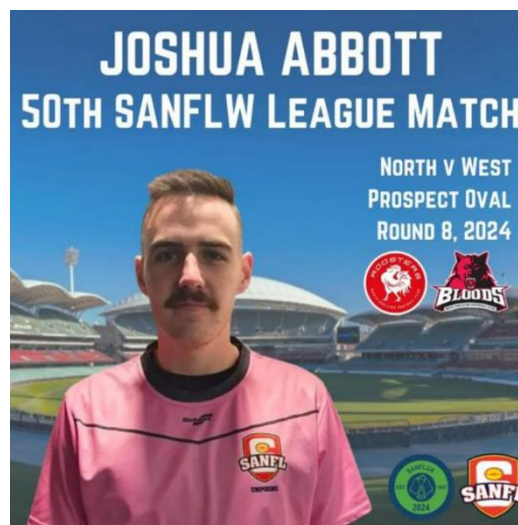
Joshua Abbott – 50 SANFLW League Games.

Jessica Gaffney – 50 SANFLW League Games.

Paul Smith – 50 SANFLW League Games.

50 SANFLW League Games is a fantastic achievement, considering the Women's season is almost half as long as the Men's!

By SANFLUA Committee.



SANFL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

2024 SANFLW DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE GRAND FINAL

The SANFLUA would like to congratulate the following umpires for their appointment of the 2024 SANFLW Development League Grand Final.

Field – Haydn Black, Grantley Byrne and Tim Gaukroger.

Boundary – Jamie Thomson, Nevaeh Jolly, James Best and Aaliyah Heritage.

Goal – Ross Moore and Akram Rasheed.

We hope you enjoyed the day!

By SANFLUA Committee.



2024 SANFLW DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE GRAND FINAL
SOUTH ADELAIDE V GLENELG
FLINDERS UNIVERSITY STADIUM - SATURDAY 27 APRIL

PANTHERS **UMPIRE APPOINTMENTS** **TIGERS**

FIELD	HAYDN BLACK	GRANTLEY BYRNE	TIM GAUKROGER	
BOUNDARY	JAMIE THOMSON	NEVAEH JOLLY	JAMES BEST	AALIYAH HERITAGE
GOAL	ROSS MOORE	AKRAM RASHEED		

SANFL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

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VALE CRAIG GLENNON

Craig Started his field umpiring journey in 1971. He quickly worked his way through the grade to become one of the most reliable and respected umpires in the Country Associations Panel travelling Saturdays right across SA with some of the characters of the game. Craig loved his umpired and would do pick up games for the Public Service, Junior games in various panels and Craig also umpired in the Sunday YCW competition before that league folded in about 1986.

On retirement from running around, Craig took over as the role of Umpire Supervisor for the Glenelg South Junior Panel guiding many promising umpires to reach either SANFL or AFL Umpiring. Craig then became involved with observing and assisting in the SANFL U/17s Panel and observing the Academy field umpires in Amateur League, which he particularly enjoyed. His earnest and encouraging character made him a favourite.

Craig then took up the role as a Match Day Steward with the SANFL, eventually taking over allocation of the weekly appointments. In 2006 Craig was awarded the "Outstanding Service To Umpiring" by the SANFL and was also awarded "Life Membership of SANFLUA."

Craig attended the Annual Association Dinner and Life Members Luncheon each year. Craig is survived by his wife Kathleen and son Brian and our condolences go to them. A good friend to many, Craig will be sadly missed.

By SANFLUA Committee.

VALE BRIAN ROBINSON

Brian started umpiring in 1968 with the SANFL metro and mainly country appointments. Brian soon established himself as a respected umpire being appointed to various country finals. Brian switched disciplines and joined the boundary panel where again he progressed through the ranks reaching league.

Brian joined the Association when he commenced umpiring and was elected onto the Association committee serving as President in 1988 and 1989. Brian received Life Membership of SANFLUA in 1986.

After Brian retired from umpiring, he then became involved with the Glenelg Football Club where his son Craig played. Brian had various roles over many years including Runner, Team Manager and Interchange Steward. Brian was awarded Life Membership of Glenelg in 2021.

Brian is survived by wife Kaye, their daughter Michelle, son Craig and four grandchildren, the SANFLUA extends our deepest sympathies, Brian will be dearly missed.

By SANFLUA Committee.

SANFL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

VALE ALLAN J ROBERTS

It is with great sadness the Association announce the passing of SANFLUA Life Member and SA Football Hall of Famer Allan Roberts, who passed away peacefully, aged 84.

Allan commenced as a boundary umpire in 1960 and officiated in a record breaking 342 League matches. He umpired in 7 League Grand Finals and 9 State Games before retiring in 1985. 'Robbie' then went on to be a boundary umpires observer with the SANFL from 1992 until 2018.

One of the greatest of all time, Allan was made umpiring Life Member of the SANFL in 1975, was inducted as a Life Member of the SANFLUA in 1982 and became member of the South Australian Football Hall of Fame in 2004.

The SANFLUA extends our sympathies to Allan's wife Dot and the extended family during this time.

A true South Australian football umpiring legend! Robbie, you will be dearly by the SANFL umpiring community.

By SANFLUA Committee.

SANFL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

2024 VOUCHERS

In edition 4 last year, these vouchers went flying off the shelves! So, by popular demand, they are back for one more time this year. Just remember, for all the goalies, do not waste this one-time voucher on a decision from the northern end of Noarlunga. Was 2023 a season to forget for yourself? Well, the SANFLUA has a get out of jail free card for season 2024! Present the following vouchers to your coach post-game for a perfect review. Valid only once.

FIELD UMPIRE MISSED REPORT

Missed a report in a game?

Sun in your eyes?

Forgot the player's number?

Don't worry. Cut out this voucher and hand it to your game day observer for a perfect game review.

Offer only valid once.

SANFL
UMPIRES
ASSOCIATION

Not a real voucher

GOAL UMPIRES ERROR IN SCORE

Forgot your 6 times tables?

Didn't really see the ball and guessed it was a goal?

Maybe you're just not a very good umpire?

Don't worry. Cut out this voucher and hand it to your game day observer for a perfect game review.

Offer only valid once.

SANFL
UMPIRES
ASSOCIATION

Not a real voucher

BOUNDARY UMPIRE THROW IN RECALL

Ball slip out of your hands when throwing the ball in?

Was it really windy?

Maybe the field umpire has a vendetta against you?

Don't worry. Cut out this voucher and hand it to your game day observer for a perfect game review.

Offer only valid once.

SANFL
UMPIRES
ASSOCIATION

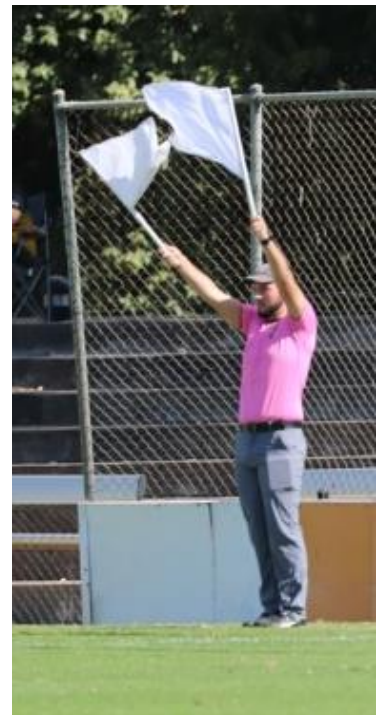
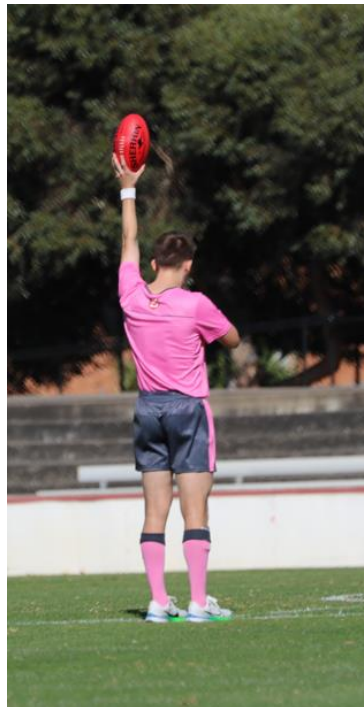
Not a real voucher

SANFL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

MANFRED'S MONDAY

The SANFLUA would like to thank our official photographer Manfred for his work over the years and for continuing yet again. Manfred is dedicated to his work and attends as many SANFL matches he can to take photos of our umpires in action. His home ground is Prospect Oval, so keep an eye out for him and his camera during the year! On our social's you would have noticed that Monday is all about Manfred and his 'shot of the week.'

By Brad Hammer.



SANFL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

STEVE'S STATS

The SANFLUA would like to thank our official statistician and good friend Steven Paunovic. 'Paun' has been an integral part of the association for many years and we would be lost without his stats! Wednesday is the day to find Steve's Stats on our socials, which provides everyone that follows SANFLUA with interesting stats each round. Paun also records stats for every umpire in the SANFLUA, which is an amazing feat. On behalf of the association, thank you very much Paun.

By Brad Hammer.

FACTS & FIGURES

Tom W Kelly umpired with Henry Klemm for their 18th match together in the Reserves on Thursday evening (most).

Jack Harris - has now umpired with 75 different umpires in just his 16 SANFL matches, making it approx. 5 new umpires run with each game.

Hayden Modra - in his first 4 games with SANFL, has umpired at 4 different grounds, on 4 different days of the week.

Cooper Williams - umpired on Thursday for the second time, and ran his 8th game at The Bay (most). 45 games so far, only a Tuesday match eludes Cooper.

Akram Rasheed - umpired on a Thursday for the first time. Akram Field Umpired the U17 and U19 back in 2007 and 2008, officiating in 2 Finals before retiring from SANFL Footy, returning this season in the Goals. Akram has officiated in 48 SANFL matches, 45 of them on a Saturday.

Mitch Scott - umpired for the 42nd time across all grades with Braden Ford in the Goals (most).

Blayde Harten - umpired a Norwood vs. Sturt clash for the first time in any grade. 67 SANFL matches in overall, just the Bays vs. South to go (outside of the AFL Reserves teams).

Jake Creasey - officiated his first Mens League game on a Thursday. Jake only has the middle of the week Wednesday to go and has now umpired 24 Mens League matches.

Yang Yang - umpired his 4th Redlegs Double Blues match-up across all grades (most). Yang has umpired 36 SANFL matches on Boundary since joining in 2022.

Michael Sboro - ran for the 48th time overall with Tom Sharpe in the Goals (most).

Jack Millar - umpired his 8th Mens League game with Giles Lewis (most) at Prospect on Good Friday. Jack has now run 38 Mens League games since debuting in Round 13 2020.

Ben Sieben - on Friday at Prospect, umpired for the first time with Jack Millar and Nathan Becker, the 2 adding on Ben's now total 100 Umpires run with in Mens League games. Ben's League Debut was back in 2009 at Waikerie, the venue of the Round 2 clash coming up after Gather Round between West and Port, and he has the odd stat of having 7 of his 9 Milestone Games (Debuts and 50th's) all at different venues.

SANFL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

2024 MAJOR SPONSORS



SANFLUA

SANFLUA was founded in 1947, the South Australian National Football League Umpires Association (SANFLUA) is a not-for-profit organisation representing the needs and interests of umpires officiating at South Australian National Football League (SANFL) and Australian Football League (AFL) level. The aim of the association is to provide a supportive and team-oriented umpiring environment and unite members across all umpiring disciplines. The association has a primary role in organising social events throughout the year and in maintaining its Life Members network.

WHO AM I ANSWERS

Person 1: Steven Murphy

Person 2: Andrew Crosby

Person 3: Matthew Norton