



BLACK and **BLUE**

Qld Cricket Umpires' & Scorers' Association

qcusa.qld.cricket.com.au

November 2020 VOLUME 35 ISSUE 4

The November 2020 General Meeting of the Association will be held in **The Captain's Room, Stuart Law Stand at QCHQ on Wednesday November 25th commencing at 7pm.**

The season so far has gone very smoothly and no incidents have arisen regarding the Covid-19 situation during matches. It has been excellent to see players and officials abiding by the guidelines laid down by Qld. Cricket.

Umpire Achievements

Congratulations to Jeff Simmonds on his initial two-day First Grade Appointment. He was awarded Cap number 162 as part of his recognition.

Other recent awards included: -

Ray Marsh	-	400 Game Badge
Bradley Smith	-	200 Game Badge
Greg Douglas	-	100 Game Badge
Jeff Simmonds	-	100 Game Badge

General Playing Conditions

The 2019/20 General Playing Conditions will be in use for all the two-day fixtures being played in the upcoming rounds. <http://www.qcusa.qld.cricket.com.au/qpc-regulations-and-playing-conditions.aspx?rw=c>

New Members

We have had a number of new members who commenced Umpiring with our Association this season. A warm welcome to you all.

We hope you have a long and enjoyable time umpiring with QCUSA and Qld Cricket. For all you old and experienced members please make these people welcome and share a drink, or a tall tale or two about your experiences.

Please send any contribution to this newsletter to:
Jim Griffith
E-mail: jzgg@bigpond.net.au
Mobile: 0419 715 697

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The Regulation Refresher Exam

You will shortly be receiving the refresher examination for the regulations. There will be a two (2) week turnaround and it is a requirement that this be completed in order to receive your Bob Spence medal points.

Hot Weather

Temperatures are starting to increase in the current season and we need to be mindful of the very hot weather. Please use common sense in games this summer.

If the extreme temperatures that are forecast, eventuate, arrange before the match with the captains, to take extra drinks breaks.

Selectors & Observers

Ron Johnsen is to be the **first point** of contact for anything concerning selections.



IMPORTANT DATES

<u>November General Meeting:</u>	Wednesday 25th November
<u>December General Meeting:</u>	Wednesday 16th December
<u>Christmas Break (1st -2nd Grade):</u>	Saturday 19th December
<u>Christmas Break (3rd -6th Grade):</u>	Saturday 19th December
<u>Resumption - (1st -6th Grade):</u>	Saturday 9th January 2021
<u>Katherine Raymont Shield Break</u>	Sunday 13th December
<u>Resumption</u>	Sunday 24th January 2021
<u>Jodie Fields Break</u>	Sunday 6th December
<u>Resumption</u>	Sunday 15th January 2021
<u>Umpire's Mid-Season Lunch:</u>	Friday 8th January 2021
<u>Annual Dinner – 2021:</u>	April 2021 – Date tba

For the season 2020/21, three selectors have been appointed to cover all grades and observations during the season. These are: -

- **Ron Johnsen**
- **Mike Ralston**
- **John Rowe**

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Availability

Entering and Updating your availability in MyCricket is mandatory.

Throughout the season please keep your availability as far in advance as possible. **As an absolute minimum, your availability should be entered one calendar month in advance.**

It is important you update your availability for the month of January, as Christmas is almost upon us and it can easily be forgotten.

You could find yourself without a game for the first few weeks of January 2021 if you are not vigilant.

UNABLE TO STAND IN YOUR ALLOCATED GAME?

IF YOU CAN'T STAND IN YOUR ALLOCATED GAME OR HAVE ANY PROBLEMS ON GAME DAY PLEASE CONTACT IN THIS ORDER:

ALL GRADES

1. Ron Johnsen 0422 133 034
2. Mike Ralston 0478 093 159

WHEN ENTERING YOUR AVAILABILITY BE SURE TO POPULATE ALL FIELDS. IF YOU ARE UNAVAILABLE PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE IT BLANK.

DO NOT ENTER "CONDITIONAL". REMEMBER TO PRESS THE UPDATE TAB AT THE BOTTOM OF THE SCREEN.

Umpires Lunch

We will be having a lunch at the Paddo Tavern on **8th January 2021**.

Please mark this in your diary. You can relate your experiences from the first half of the season to anyone who might listen.

We have not been able to hold a lunch since early January 2020 and we are now overdue.

We have been arranging these lunches for approximately 5 years.

We hope you will be available. It will be excellent if we can get some of the new Umpires to attend.

**Let me know via SMS 0419 715 697
OR
email – jzgg@bigpond.net.au**

MID-SEASON UMPIRES LUNCH

***We are holding our next Umpires lunch on: -
Friday January 8th 2021***

WHY?

- ***So, you can tell us about your wonderful Christmas and brag about all the beautiful Chrissie gifts you received.***
- ***So, you can have a laugh with your colleagues and tell us some war stories from the first half of the season.***

***WHERE: PADDINGTON TAVERN
TIME: 12.15
RSVP: Jim Griffith 20th Dec. 2020***

jzgg@bigpond.net.au OR 0419 715 697

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PlayHQ

Hi Cricket Family,

In June we advised you that Cricket Australia was seeking a vendor to help us transition from the current Alinta Energy MyCricket System ('MyCricket') to a new registration and competition management platform.

After reviewing applications from leading vendors around the globe, I am delighted to inform you we have engaged in a long-term partnership with PlayHQ as the new provider of our core digital services to the Australian cricket community.



**Welcome
PlayHQ**

PlayHQ is a Melbourne-based start-up. The company is building a new cloudbased platform for grassroots sport and has formed partnerships with other National and State sporting bodies, such as Basketball Victoria and most recently the AFL, to help meet the same challenges you face as volunteers.

After a three-month 'discovery' process, we are confident that PlayHQ is the right partner for community cricket and can play a central role in enhancing the digital services we provide and ease the workload of volunteers.

We want to provide a service that meets the everyday needs of cricket clubs. So, during the next two to three seasons we will work closely with PlayHQ in their Melbourne based office, providing insight and feedback into the platform design & testing processes and developing a robust transition plan from the current MyCricket platform.

This project will be led by Community Cricket, Technology experts and involve strong input from State & Territory Associations and volunteer 'super users' who have already provided strong guidance about the features you need.

Our ultimate ambition is to make online administration easier so that you - volunteers, administrators, coaches and umpires - have more time to do the hard work necessary to get your teams on the field, run competitions or officiate at games.

Over the course of the project we will continue to monitor your feedback to ensure we address any limitations in the current platform, while we continue to make the improvements that will provide long term benefits.

Kind regards,

Belinda Clark
Executive General Manager, Community Cricket
Cricket Australia

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Around the Regions

We welcome news for the November issue of the **Black and Blue** from the North Queensland Cricket Association. We look forward to receiving articles from other regions in future editions.



Townsville Cricket Umpires Association Inc.

President: Nigel Woods

Secretary: Greg Hamblin



NORTH QUEENSLAND CRICKET ASSOCIATION

North Queensland Cricket Association Inc.

President: Wally Sanim

Cricket umpiring in North Queensland

I made my cricket debut at Townsville's Endeavour #1 ground in September 1975 in a very inauspicious Reserve Grade performance for University, a performance that was to become all too familiar over the rest of my brief playing career. On that day, my fellow debutants were Ashley Moller (that supremely talented Gordonvale product on whom I reckon David Gower based his languid technique!!!) and David Peever (future CEO of Rio Tinto and Chairman of the Cricket Australia Board). Not surprisingly they left me in their wakes to inexorably forge their way to much bigger and better cricket achievements. So, when I strode out onto the same ground in 2014 as brand-new umpire a little voice in my ear said: *"let's try this again!"*

It was, indeed, a better choice. In umpiring I, like many of the readers of this article, found a different, exciting connection with the game, allowing me to participate and yet to give back. I am proud to be a cricket umpire.

The North Queensland Cricket Association Zone runs from the Coral Sea coast, west to Mt Isa and the Qld border and is bounded to its north from our friends from Cricket Far North at Cardwell and to the south from our friends at Mackay-Whitsunday somewhere (nobody ever seems to know where) between Home Hill and Bowen. Whereas there is an obvious cricket focus on Townsville as the largest tropical city in the country, there are proud and established cricket communities in the sugar cane fields of the Burdekin and Herbert River areas, the historic mining centre of Charters Towers and contemporary mining centre of Mt Isa. I could talk at length about famous and perhaps infamous cricketers from these parts but to spare readers from my lack of literary prowess I can but recommend you plough through the pages of *"Bradman's of the Bush"* by Piesse and Wilson - perhaps the best cricket read in this country.

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Formal cricket umpiring in North Queensland is centred on Townsville, but can include umpires anywhere in the Zone if they wish, through the auspices of the Townsville Cricket Umpires Association (TCUA). The TCUA established itself as a separate entity from Townsville Cricket Inc. in the 2009/10 season but still maintains a strong link with the administrators of cricket in Townsville through its membership of Townsville Cricket Inc. (TCI). TCUA members only half-jokingly boast that they may well be the smallest incorporated body in Australia with an active membership of 16 when all are fit! But what is lacking in numbers is made up for in enthusiasm for the game. The average age of an umpire in these parts hovers around 50 with experience levels measured from months to decades. TCUA membership includes one (they hope to make it more) female umpire. TCUA umpire fees are roughly comparable with our friends in CFN as mentioned by Julian Warnock in the September edition of **Black and Blue**, however, TCUA doesn't need to apply a travel component.

There are 7 clubs in Townsville Cricket fielding 22 teams across a new structure of A, B and C Grades (replacing the old A-Grade, Reserves, 3rds and 4ths). A-Grade (expanding to both 2- and 1-day cricket in the 2nd half of the season) plays on Saturdays although this season's draw will introduce some A-Grade games on Sunday with B and C Grades playing only on Sundays. A-Grade 1-day games are 45 overs per side, B Grade is 40 overs and C Grade is 30 overs. A T20 competition is also incorporated into the season. This new arrangement will present a challenge for TCUA to field umpires across all games on both days this season. A-Grade is, as far as practicable, served by 2 umpires per game - providing umpires to two A-Grade games on Saturdays should present no trouble for our erstwhile Allocations Officer. However, having an A-Grade game on the same day as potentially nine games on Sunday in B and C Grades will stretch TCUA umpiring resources very thin indeed! It is welcoming to see Charters Towers fielding an additional, competitive team, in the B Grade. It is even more welcoming to note that TCUA now has a fully accredited umpire in Charters Towers to stand in the Charters Towers B Grade team's home games.

Credit is due to TCI for learning some quick COVID-19 lessons through a preseason T20 "Winter Whack" which allowed the regular season to commence in late September. Along with the usual social distancing requirements (yes, we know they are a bit dodgy to implement at the fall of a wicket) players and match officials have reasonably quickly adapted to ball cleansing at drinks and placing bowlers hats on the ground as exercises in playing their part to ensure that this cricket season, from park cricket to the Test Match arena, isn't jeopardised by a COVID cluster developing somewhere from a game of cricket!!

All TCUA umpires have, at least, attained their Cricket Australia 'Community Umpiring' level with nine of their number also attaining 'Representative' accreditation. This season has also seen the resumption of regular (we hope) umpire training evenings where the emphasis will be on field craft as well as the Laws with a strategy that "we will all pitch in to help each other". It is intended that this more collegiate approach will be more effective than a 'teacher/student' situation. The concept of mentoring regional umpires with Brisbane counterparts is something that has peaked interest within TCUA as has

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the possibility of experienced representative umpires from Qld and interstate assisting in training TCUA members either remotely (in these COVID-19, cash poor times) or, if at all possible, in person. These opportunities will be explored further as we all seek to better ourselves as park umpires or representative umpires, whichever we strive to be. Should any readers be contemplating relocating to the NQ region, please contact either me directly or TCUA at the contact details listed here. Wherever you may find yourself in our Zone, should you wish to continue or, indeed, commence your umpiring career you will be sure to find a welcoming hand!

All the best to you all wherever you are, stay safe and: ***may they all snick off to slip!***

John Baldwin

Regional Umpire Coordinator
North Queensland Cricket Association Inc.
rucnqca@gmail.com
0409 470275

QCUSA Website - A Mine of Information

Don't forget to check out our website if you haven't browsed it yet. Murray White has done a great job in keeping up to date; this a great, easy to read resource for the benefit of our members. Check out past newsletters, all this season's forms you will need and other various useful information. If you have a question or worry, you will most likely find the answer here.

qcusa.qld.cricket.com.au

Upcoming Carnivals

If you are keen to umpire in Carnivals especially over the holiday season you need to be visiting the QCUSA Website. Carnivals coming up are as follows: -

QJC U12 Boys Carnival 2020

**Monday 14 - Friday 18 December
2020 (Souths)**

**QC U15s Female State Championships
2020/21**

**Monday 14 - Friday 18 December
2020 (Redlands)**

BNJCA Ian Healy Cup 2021

**Monday 4 - Friday 8 January 2021
(tba)**

**QSS 16-19yrs Boys Cricket State
Championship 2021**

**Sunday 7 - Tuesday 9 March 2021
(Redlands)**

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Merchandise

Merchandise is looked after by the Social Committee. Please telephone or Email the following to place your orders.

Damien McAndrew
Andrew Moir

Email: damien.mcandrew@bigpond.com
Email: amoir@bigpond.com

Telephone: 0418 154 194
Telephone: 0427 022 073

Merchandise orders that are to be collected on the weekend must be placed before the preceding Wednesday with Damien or Andrew. Please **DO NOT** leave placement of orders until Friday and request pickup on the weekend.

Merchandise Price List - 2020/21

Item	Price
BLK Umpire Blue Field Shirt	\$55.00
BLK Maroon Off-Field Shirt	\$50.00
Cap with Association Logo	\$15.00
BLK Water Bottle with Association Logo	\$12.00
White Avenel On Field Hat (XL, L, M & S) (Limited Quantity Available)	\$40.00
Black Avenel On Field Hat (XL, L, M & S) (Limited Quantity Available)	\$40.00
Hat Band with Association Logo	\$5.00
Belt Clip	\$5.00
BLK Carbon Gameday Gear Bag	\$60.00
BLK Carbon Premier Touring Bag (Wheels) (Special Order)	\$145.00
Association Tie (50th Anniversary Style)	\$15.00
Business Shirt (50th Anniversary Style)	\$40.00
Umpire Counter	\$10.00
Notebook and Cover	\$5.00
The Laws of Cricket 2017 Code (2nd Edition - 2019)	\$5.00

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