

## Why would you want to umpire with the Sydney Shires Cricket Umpires Association ?

### Here are the facts

#### Sydney Shires Cricket Season 2011/12 – An Overview

The Sydney Shires Competition plays the bulk of its cricket on Saturdays with a limited auxiliary competition played on some Sundays.

**SATURDAY CRICKET** is played in four divisions graded 1-4 from the last weekend in September to the first weekend in April. There is no play on the Christmas weekend nor Saturday 31 December / Sunday 1 January. All grades 1 through 4 are open age competitions with 9 of the 14 Preliminary Rounds played over 2 consecutive Saturdays. Two day matches start at 12.30pm and finish at 6pm. The remaining 4 Preliminary Rounds are one day limited over fixtures starting at 10am (50 overs a side)

On Saturdays we generally only have enough members to umpire our 1st and 2nd grade competitions with most of 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade match getting umpires. Currently games that don't have umpires see the players umpiring their own games.

**SUNDAY CRICKET** is played on seven (7) selected Sundays between November and February each season. Each club fields an Under 24 side that plays in a limited over competition called the Frank Gray Shield. These matches are 50 overs a side starting at 10am. We only need 14 umpires on Sunday match days so preference for Sunday cricket is given to those members that also umpire with us on Saturdays

All games are on turf wickets played all over the Sydney area. There are 14 clubs in the Shires Competition as shown below –

<b>Club Name</b>	<b>Location of the venue where First and Second Grade Play</b>	<b>Location of the venue where Third and Fourth Grade Play</b>
<b>Auburn</b>	<b>Auburn</b>	<b>Auburn</b>
<b>Burwood</b>	<b>Concord</b>	<b>Concord</b>
<b>Georges River</b>	<b>Bexley</b>	<b>Riverwood</b>
<b>Epping</b>	<b>Epping</b>	<b>North Epping</b>
<b>Lane Cove</b>	<b>West Lane Cove</b>	<b>Longueville</b>
<b>Lindfield</b>	<b>Lindfield</b>	<b>St Ives</b>
<b>Macquarie Uni</b>	<b>Macquarie Uni (Nth Ryde)</b>	<b>Macquarie Uni (Nth Ryde)</b>
<b>North West Sydney</b>	<b>Rouse Hill</b>	<b>Castle Hill</b>
<b>Pennant Hills</b>	<b>Pennant Hills</b>	<b>Pennant Hills</b>
<b>Roseville</b>	<b>Roseville Chase</b>	<b>Roseville</b>
<b>Strathfield</b>	<b>Flemington</b>	<b>Sth Strathfield</b>
<b>Southern Districts</b>	<b>Hoxton Park</b>	<b>Hoxton Park</b>
<b>South Sydney</b>	<b>St Peters</b>	<b>Marrickville</b>
<b>Warringah</b>	<b>Curl Curl</b>	<b>Curl Curl</b>

Sunday cricket (Frank Gray Shield) games are almost always played at the venue that hosts first and second grade matches on Saturdays as shown above.

## **Why Choose Shires Cricket ?**

\* We welcome members who might only be able to umpire part time by being available for only a limited number of games a season (this may not necessarily be the case for some other competitions)

\* With the spiralling cost of petrol we are very mindful of where you live when allocating matches to you. In other competitions this is not always the case and you might be expected to officiate all over Sydney throughout the season.

### ***In Shires we ONLY appoint you to venues that you are prepared to travel to***

\* We have a policy of appointing TWO umpires to each match which means you never have to umpire a game on your own at both ends with a player doing umpiring duties at square leg. This should be of particular comfort for new umpires that you will always be placed with a mate to confide in. All first season umpires are placed with an experienced umpire for the bulk of your first season

\* Due to the fact that we don't have enough umpires to cover all our preliminary round games this creates a unique situation for finals matches. In Shires Cricket all members will have the opportunity to gain an appointment to an end of season Qualifying Final with most also receiving an appointment to a Semi Final. After these games the eight (8) best ranked umpires during the season will gain an appointment to one of the four grand finals. In other competitions you may need to umpire for many years before ever gaining an appointment to a finals match. Provided your performances are up to scratch you will certainly get serious consideration for at least one end of season finals match in your debut season

\* The standard of play in Shires is excellent, particularly in First Grade. Many high profile players are now playing Shires after completing careers in Grade Cricket. Richard Chee Quee, Mark Atkinson and Phil Marks are all men who have played first class state cricket in the past but who also have played Shires Cricket recently. With our limited numbers of members you will not have to start at the bottom in 4<sup>th</sup> grade. You will start at worst in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and will quickly get the opportunity to umpire at a very high standard of play

\* The relationship between Shires Umpires and the Clubs is outstanding. Ten years ago our Association didn't exist and games in all grades didn't have umpires. The clubs appreciate the fact that having umpires is a privilege and not a right. You will be made to feel extremely welcome at every Shires venue you visit

\* Quite often some umpires after spending a few seasons gaining experience in Shires Cricket will then choose to explore new options in Sydney Grade Cricket. Past experience has shown that umpires starting their career in Shires, gaining on field experience and performing at a good standard may be given the opportunity to come into Sydney Grade Cricket (if they choose) at a higher level than those that start their career in Grade Cricket.

\* **Want more information ? Check out our website at [www.sscua.com](http://www.sscua.com)**