



## Season 2020/21 – An Overview

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

**SATURDAY SHIRES CRICKET** is played in four divisions graded 1-4. Due to Covid19 the season start date is delayed to 31 October 2020 and goes through to the last weekend in March. There is no play on the weekend between Christmas and New Years Eve (26-27 December). All grades 1 through 4 are open age competitions with five of the 13 Preliminary Rounds played over two consecutive Saturdays. Two day matches start at 12.15pm and finish at 5.30pm. The remaining eight Preliminary Rounds are one day limited over fixtures starting at 10am (50 overs a side)

**SUNDAY SHIRES 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 12 umpires on Sunday match days so preference for this competition is given to members who have already shown a competency to umpire at First or Second Grade level

**UMPIRE MATCH FEES** - Based on last season - In Shires Cricket umpires will be paid \$145 per day tax free. Payments are made into your bank account by Cricket NSW about three to four times a season

**CLUB LOCATIONS** - All games in Shires Cricket are on turf wickets played all over the Sydney area. There are 13 clubs located at Auburn, Balmain South Sydney (based at St Peters), Burwood, Georges River (based at Bexley), Epping, Lane Cove, Lindfield, North West Sydney (based at Rouse Hill), Pennant Hills, Roseville, Southern Districts (based at Hoxton Park), Strathfield and Warringah.

**We also appoint umpires to two other competitions on Sundays -**

**Masters and Classics Cricket** is for players over 40 (Masters) and over 50 (Classics) and these two divisions of the competition alternate to play a round every second Sunday. Matches are 40 overs a side starting at 12.15pm, only one umpire is allocated per game, and you get paid \$160 in cash on the day. This is competitive but also very friendly cricket and we recommend our members give Masters and Classics cricket a try when available to umpire on any given Sunday during the season.

**Shires 5th Grade and Chappelow Cup (6th Grade)** - These games are played predominately on Sundays as a 40 over a side fixture starting at 12.15pm (where surplus grounds are available some games will play on Saturdays). Only one umpire is allocated per game, and you get paid \$150 to your bank account within two weeks of match completion. This is another excellent opportunity for members to gain extra game time on Sundays and pick up some extra cash along the way.

## 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. Other Associations are not as flexible and might expect you to be available full time to gain an appointment.

\* With the cost of petrol we are very mindful of where you live. Therefore in Shires Cricket we ONLY appoint you to venues that you are prepared to travel to.

\* For **Saturday Cricket**, (and Frank Gray Shield on Sundays) 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 new umpires are placed with an experienced umpire for the bulk of your first season

\* 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 12 best ranked umpires during the season will gain an appointment to one of the six grand finals we need to supply umpires to. In other competitions you may need to umpire for many years before ever gaining an appointment to a finals match.

\* The standard of play in Shires is excellent, particularly in First Grade. Many high profile players have played Shires after completing careers in Sydney Premier Cricket. Richard Chee Quee, Don Nash, Mark Atkinson and Phil Marks are all men who have played for NSW in the past but who also have played Shires Cricket in recent seasons.

\* The relationship between Shires Umpires and the Clubs is outstanding. Nineteen 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.

\* Join up with us and we supply you a free cap, polo shirt, notebook, ball counter, umpire handbook and Association key ring. The free gear we give you is worth significantly more than the fee you pay to join our Association.

## **Want more information ?**

Check out our website at [www.sscua.com.au](http://www.sscua.com.au)

Call or Email our Honorary Secretary  
Stephen Blomfield - [shireumpires@iprimus.com.au](mailto:shireumpires@iprimus.com.au) or 0404 270044