



Season 2018/19 – 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 from the fourth Saturday in September to the last weekend in March. There is no play on the weekend between Christmas and New Years Eve (Sat/Sun 29-30 December). All grades 1 through 4 are open age competitions with 9 of the 13 Preliminary Rounds played over two consecutive Saturdays. Two day matches start at 12.15pm and finish at 5.30pm. The remaining four 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 3rd Grade matches getting umpires. Currently games that don't have umpires see us use reserve umpires from other competitions and failing that, the players have to umpire their own games.

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 - In Shires Cricket umpires last season were paid \$137 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 14 clubs located at Auburn, Balmain South Sydney (based at St Peters), Burwood, Georges River (based at Bexley), Epping, Lane Cove, Lindfield, Macquarie Uni, 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 (based on last season) you get paid \$150 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.

Tim Creer Cup Cricket is an open age competition that has each Shires Club's 5th grade side participate in. Matches are played predominately on Sundays as a 40 over a side fixture starting at 12.30pm. Only one umpire is allocated per game, and (based on last season) you get paid \$140 in cash on the day. The Tim Creer Cup 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. If you choose Shires cricket you get a **guaranteed appointment** on every Saturday you nominate to umpire. This is not necessarily the case with some other competitions around Sydney.

* 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 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 end of season 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 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. Seventeen 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, and for your first season we will also discount your joining fee by 50% if you commit to umpire at least 50% of our Saturday rounds

Want more information ?

Check out our website at www.sscua.com.au

Call or Email our Honorary Secretary
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