



## Season 2025-26 – An Overview

The Sydney Shires Cricket Competition has been around since 1923 and plays the bulk of its cricket on Saturdays with a limited auxiliary competition played on some Sundays. All matches are played on turf surface pitches around Sydney. Season 2022-23 saw the competition celebrate its Centenary season.

**SATURDAY SHIRES CRICKET** is played in four divisions graded 1-4 with the season start date scheduled on the 4th Saturday of September and the Grand Final on the last weekend in March. There is no play on the two weekends during Christmas and New Years. First to Fourth Grades are open age competitions with eight of the 13 Preliminary Rounds played over two consecutive Saturdays. Two day matches start at Midday and finish at 5.30pm. The remaining five Preliminary Rounds are one day limited over fixtures starting at 10am (50 overs a side)

**SUNDAY SHIRES CRICKET** is played on eight (8) 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. Only 12 umpires are needed on Sunday match days so preference for this competition is given to members who have established a competency to umpire at 1st or 2nd Grade level

**UMPIRE MATCH FEES** - Last season 2024-25 Umpires were paid \$153 per day tax free. An increase on this match fee in season 2025-26 is likely. 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, Classics and Vintage Cricket** is for players over 40 (Masters), over 50 (Classics), and over 60 (Vintage). Masters and Vintage play every second Sunday and Classics play on the alternate Sundays. Matches are 40 overs a side starting at 12.15pm, only one umpire is allocated per game, and you get paid \$170 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. Only one umpire is allocated per game, and you get paid \$170 with payments made into your bank account by Cricket NSW about three to four times a season. This is another excellent opportunity for members to gain extra game time on Sundays and pick up some extra cash along the way.

***\*Note\*** - Members who are new to umpiring will not initially be appointed to Sunday games on their own until they have proven themselves in **Saturday cricket** where they are paired with another more experienced umpire, and where feedback on your performance deems you competent to umpire a game without a partner.*

## 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. However it is our preference to admit persons who are new to umpiring who are available on the majority of Saturday playing days where possible. This preference does not apply to new applicants who are already established umpires in other competitions.

\* 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 provided you agree to be available to officiate at 50% or more of the various club locations.

\* 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

\* 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. Mark Atkinson , Richard Chee Quee, Phil Marks, Don Nash, Phil Marks and Peter Toohey are all men who have played for NSW in the past but who also have played Shires Cricket in their later years before retiring. Both Mitchell Starc and Mark Taylor in their younger years started their career in Shires and then progressed to play for the Australian national team. Others like Travis Friend (Zimbabwe) and Shoaib Bashir (England) who have played test match cricket for their countries have also played Shires 1st Grade cricket in the past.

\* The relationship between Shires Umpires and the Clubs is outstanding. Twenty-four 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, personalised notebook, ball counter, umpire handbook, Association key ring and a few other miscellaneous nick knacks umpires use on field. 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  
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