



PRE-GAME RESPONSIBILITIES

RULE REFERENCE 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 5.1.1(iv)

ACTIVITY OBJECTIVE

To provide umpires with a knowledge of their pre-game responsibilities through a fun and engaging classroom-based activity.

AREA REQUIRED

Your choice of indoor or outdoor playing area.

EQUIPMENT REQUIRED

1 x **Pre-Game Responsibilities** worksheet per umpire

1 x Rule Book per umpire

1 x Pen or pencil per umpire

10-15 MINUTES DURATION

WHAT TO DO

- Prior to the session, photocopy enough of the **Pre-Game Responsibilities** worksheets so there is at least one per pair.
- Pair umpires up and provide them with a copy of the **Pre-Game Responsibilities** worksheet.
- Using the Rule Book, each pair is to complete the worksheet.
- Use the **Ask the Umpires** questions to promote further discussions around the topic and reinforce the most important aspects of the learning by referencing the **Umpire Coaching Tips**.

UMPIRE COACHING TIPS

- The umpires have a responsibility to check the:
 - Court and surrounding areas are safe (Rule 3.1)
 - Goalposts are padded the full length (Rule 3.2)
 - Ball is correctly inflated (Rule 3.3).
- It is the umpire's responsibility to inspect all the players for correct length of fingernails, uniforms, sharp adornments, jewellery, and hair (5.1.1(iv))
- It is important for umpires to inspect players prior to the start of each game as no adornment that may endanger player safety shall be worn.
- If a wedding ring and/or medical alert bracelet/necklace are worn, they shall be taped.
- Hair must be suitably tied back.
- Before the game, umpires also have a responsibility to:
 - Warm up thoroughly.
 - Meet their co-umpire.
 - Decide what to call the teams (club/association/school name, not colours)
 - Toss for goal end (Rule 5.2.1) - after the Captains have notified the umpires of the result of their toss for goal end or first centre pass, the umpires need to toss for goal end. The umpire winning the toss shall control the sideline nearer the official bench and the goal end to the right when facing the court.

ASK THE UMPIRES

- Why is it important to check the Court and surrounding areas before the start of each game?
- Why is it important to inspect the players prior to the start of each game?
- What happens if a player is wearing a medical alert bracelet or necklace and/or wedding band?
- What should the umpires do after the captains have tossed and notified them of the result?
- Which half of the Court should be controlled by the umpire winning the toss for Goal End?

GETTING STARTED



The umpire is conducting their pre-game inspection of the players and notices a player is wearing a watch. What action would the umpire need to take? Why?

The umpire is conducting their pre-game inspection of the players and notices a player with long fingernails. What action would the umpire need to take? Why?

Creating a safe environment is an important part of your responsibilities as an umpire before a game. Using your Rule Book, list the things an umpire must check before the game. Make sure you include the relevant Rule Reference.

Can you think of any other responsibilities an umpire has before the game?
