

Ballarat Football Umpires Association **2022 Yearbook**



Jeep





What an amazing group of resilient, positive people we have in our team. 2020 and 2021 presented many obstacles, but as members we rose and pushed ourselves to adapt and overcome obstacles. The football community will define us by how we respond to the difficult situations. This year was our first fully completed season since 2019 so it's quite special to say "we got there"!

Whilst our resolve may have been challenged, our enduring support for one another has been key to returning to our life of safety, security, relationships and health.

Chair's Report Deb Sleep

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It is with pleasure that I present my second report as Chair of the BFUA following our 109th year of operations.

Let's reflect on all the positivity we experienced this season, starting with our 2022 Season Launch. We came together to celebrate the return to our sporting fields, albeit with some caution, after the long pause we endured in the COVID-19 environment.

It was delightful to have State League umpires Tom Lyon and Josh Dudman-Doyle join us, both of whom developed within the BFUA, and have been celebrated for their performances over time. Our Season Launch is significant to all our members, to have the opportunity to bring in a new season with their friends and colleagues. It also provides the BFUA the opportunity to publicly recognise our sponsors, stakeholders and supporters.

The BFUA has made a significant contribution to the fabric of the football community. We would like to publicly thank the following leagues:

- Ballarat Football Netball League, including the BFLW competition
- Central Highlands Football Netball League
- Maryborough and Castlemaine District Football Netball League:
- Ballarat Association Schools & School Sport Victoria

This year we introduced a new appointments system called Officials HQ which is being adopted by the majority of umpiring groups across Australia. We did have challenges with the introduction of the system and we recognize the massive work this created for Billy Mitchell as Head of Umpiring Operations and our coaching team. These teething issues have mainly been resolved now, and we thank all umpires for their patience and understanding.

The Board were very proud to establish the BFUA Youth Voice advisory committee this season. There was a lot of interest in being involved in this group among our members under the age of 21. The inaugural committee consisted of Ally Steenhuis, Harry Straw horn, Imogen Thorne, Rohan McMaster, Natasha Petrov, Daniel O'Brien, Matilda Pearce and Isaac Rossato. What an amazing group, who contributed ideas to build on our youth member numbers and develop inclusivity amongst this huge cohort.





At this season's Life Members Evening we were proud to induct two members who have worked tirelessly in support of the Association in various roles. Justin Davey who is a previous Chair of the Board for the period of 2019 – 2020 and Peter Every who is a previous board member and integral to the social space were both recognized with Life Membership. We thank them both for their significant contributions, in shaping the BFUA into what it is today.

We remain so appreciative to maintain the strong support from our local community. Our sincere appreciation of the following key supporters in 2022:

Ballarat Jeep	Central Highlands Water	Bakers Delight Wendouree	Sleep's Plumbing
Joiners Edge	JAL Contractors	Lake Health Group	Body & Soul
Meat n More	IGA Community Rewards Program	Ballarat Connected Communities	The Office of Julianna Addison

I also acknowledge the key relationships with others that contribute to the success of the BFUA:

Ballarat Turf Club &Eel Skinners & Duck Pluckers BNS	City of Ballarat - City Oval facilities	Redan Football Club – City Oval facilities and shared spaces
City of Moorabool – Mason's Lane Reserve facilities	Mt Alexander Shire – Castlemaine facilities	City Oval Bowls Club – access to facilities for our social activities

This year we engaged in many activities to promote and progress the BFUA:

- BNS Ball Clean up small army of dedicated members who helped raise funds for the BFUA
- Bunnings BBQ another team of umpires who helped raise money for our group
- Pat Cronin Foundation presentation reminded us of the dangers of One Punch attacks and the importance of looking out for your mates
- Easter Hot Cross Bun Drive with Bakers Delight

- Sponsor engagement inclusion in all events, regularly highlighted on social media, participation in community engagement like the opening of Central Highlands Water fountains
- Media engagements in print, radio and many social media connections
- Community engagement discussions with other sporting bodies, identifying similar areas that impact our organizations, for example, taking collective learnings on anti-social activities – and the impact on community sport, operational best practices in sporting environments.

We also engaged external, recognised coaches (in other sporting fields) to sit on our Selection Panels for most of our coaching interviews for 2023 coaching roles. These panelists brought a wealth of knowledge and an external view that was refreshing.







The season concluded on a social front with the BFUA Presentation & Grand Final Appointments Night. Oh what a night it was! Moving the event to the North Ballarat Sports Club meant we were able to conduct proceedings overlooking a lit-up MARS Stadium where many of our grand finals would be held. It was fantastic to celebrate our award winners in style as we seek to improve professionalism in all areas. My congratulations to all 2022 award recipients and high achievers. These awards recognise the work, development and commitment you have made to improve your game – well done.

I would like to acknowledge and express a huge gratitude to the 2022 Board for their commitment and dedication to positively directing the association. The BFUA is a big business. It demands a passionate team with broad experience to contribute to the conversation and make decisions for the benefit our members. The Board have worked tirelessly to ensure we have a strong organisation, equipped to guide the future BFUA operations.

It is important to acknowledge and thank the entire BFUA Board – Chris Jones (Vice Chair – Recruitment & Retention), Brent Irvin (Director of Finance), Mark Warwick (Child Safety Officer), Mick Toner (Uniform & Apparel), John Seeary (Covid Safety Officer), Callan Evans (Health & Wellbeing), Mark Harris (Grants & Sponsorship), Richard Nash and Glen Chiswell.

On an operational front I wish to extend our sincere gratitude to Billy Mitchell, our Head of Umpiring Operations and Senior Field Coach His level of professionalism, his counsel, his commitment to go above and beyond is extraordinary. The BFUA is very fortunate to have such a dedicated knowledgeable administrator and leader, committed to the development of all members and the broader BFUA.

I wish to also thank our coaching team:

Julian Pinder and John Bond – Senior Field Assistant Coaches
Paul Clark – Development Field Coach, supported by Jack Anderson
Brodie Bennett – Goal Umpire Coach, supported by Callan Evans
Paul Miesen – Boundary Umpire Coach, supported by Josh Hawkes
Dave Taylor and Brock Reid – Fitness Coordinators
Les Vearing and Paul Miesen – Training Hub Coordinators

To all of our Leadership team, the time and dedication you all put into your roles is key to the professionalism of the BFUA. You are the leaders for change and the drivers of development of our entire team. "You cannot be, what you cannot see", so thank you for your efforts to continually strive to make this a reality for our members.





The BFUA has a bright future and I'm very conscious of the obligation we, as current guardians, have to be active in our ongoing efforts to ensure this continues:





To always look for ways to do things better

- Develop, recognise and reward the people within
- · Continually source the skills required to assist the BFUA in its forward planning
- Engage, involve and value and celebrate the Member contributions.
- Implement strategic ongoing processes to attract new members specifically gender equality, diversity, inclusivity planning
- Always look for alternate ways to grow the BFUA business
- Invite discussion and invite learnings from other community and sporting bodies
- Continue to consider all options and keep a progressive strategic mindset.

The BFUA Board will reflect over the Summer break to work on your behalf to ensure the BFUA maintains activities to ensure a responsible business.

Thank you all for allowing me to be part of team BFUA in 2022.

Deb Sleep Chairperson





Head of Umpiring Operations Report - Billy Mitchell

Our first full season since the "interrupted years" was a huge success! I won't use the C word in this report because I'm so glad that issue is behind us, and we can now focus on building the BFUA to be bigger and better than ever.

In 2022 we took a slight hit to our numbers – down ten percent to 300 registered umpires. This trend was experienced by most umpiring groups across the state. Despite this, we saw a willingness from umpires to go above and beyond to cover games which enabled community footy to go ahead.

Also, despite our slightly lower numbers, field umpire depth continued to go from strength to strength, and this season we had a difficult time narrowing down our field umpires for finals. This is a good problem to have, and it should motivate each umpire to "go one better" in 2023.

This season we trialed online coaching on some cold Monday nights which was well attended and enabled us to reach umpires who typically wouldn't be able to attend training. Following the season, we surveyed members on whether this should be a permanent change and I am pleased to say 80% of umpires were supportive of the move. From 2023 onwards we will have a semi-regular online coaching program which will replace Monday night training sessions in Ballarat.

I would like to acknowledge Paul Miesen and Josh Hawkes in their boundary role as coaches. The boundary space is by far the most challenging due to the volume of umpires, but Paul and Josh were warm and welcoming, seeking to provide the best opportunities for our emerging umpires.



Brodie Bennett and Callan Evans had another great season in the goal umpiring space. It is excellent to see so many developing umpires and plenty of support provided as they move up the ranks. Great work!

Well done!

Paul Clark and Jack Anderson provided a fantastic introduction to field umpiring for our developing umpires. Without their support in the formative years we would not have such great depth at senior level.

Thank you to Julian Pinder and John Bond who have assisted me greatly throughout the season and took the lead on skills activities at training. Their knowledge of field umpiring and dedication to training our group has meant we've reached a high level of consistency across our coaching team.

David Taylor and Brock Reid ran a solid fitness program across the season and, as always, struck a good balance between fitness and fun. Thank you for running training sessions in such a professional way.







A huge congratulations to the following umpires who made their field umpiring BFNL Seniors debut: Oliver Pearce, Ethan Haintz, Damian Irvin, Noah Quick, Matilda Pearce and Josh Di Mieri.

Steve Aleksic was awarded the Best First Year Field Umpire (Shane McInerney Award) following a fast ascension into Reserves and Senior football. Steve knows football incredibly well and has a fantastic communication style. I look forward to coaching him in the coming years.

Damian Irvin was the Most Improved Field Umpire following a year of fast development and elevation to BFNL Seniors. Damian is hugely coachable and takes pride in reviewing his performances. I cannot wait to see where he can his umpiring in 2023.



Adrian Tinetti took out the Best & Most Consistent Field Umpire for the third consecutive season following another fantastic season. Thank you Adrian for your composure, adaptability and willingness to support our entire umpiring group. You are a widely respected umpire across the football community.

To the BFUA Board: Deb, Chris, Brent, Mark, Mick, Callan, Mark, Richard and Glenn – thank you for everything you do. Your passion for this organization is unwavering and the effort you go to behind the scenes is what really moves us forward. Under this board, led by Deb who challenges us to raise the bar for professionalism and engagement, I believe the BFUA is in very capable hands.

Lastly, to all our umpires, thank you for everything you do both on and off the field. I am privileged to be part of such a passionate group of umpires, and I look forward to seeing what we can achieve together in season 2023!

Billy Mitchell Head of Umpiring Operations / Senior Field Coach





Boundary Coach Report - Paul Miesen



Well, what an exciting year our 2022 season was, our first full season back after two years of lockdown and missed opportunities. We were lucky to get out and umpire our great game, many of the umpires would agree that it was nice to be back running along that white line each week.

This year was my second in the role of Boundary Umpire Coach for the BFNL, CHFL, MCFNL and BFLW. I enjoyed it, the challenges associated with it and seeing the umpires develop.

It was great to experience the return of finals (even though the first two weeks of finals was very challenging with the logistics of all the appointments) and showcasing the boundaries throughout every final game. It was extremely pleasing watching them display their fitness and skills after their hard work in the season. Congratulations to all finals umpires, well done! Congratulations to all award winners too.

My main aims for the year were again to get to know all the boundary umpires, firstly by name and then ability by observing as many as I could, and to enhance the standard of boundary umpiring by improving fitness and making sure they all enjoy umpiring.

During the course of the year I was extremely fortunate to have Joshua Hawkes as my assistant again. His help, support and feedback was invaluable. He shared the load with me and each week did the junior appointments (U17 Reserves, U17 and U19's). Josh led Monday night training in Ballarat, and helped me with training on Wednesday night. Thank you Josh!

This year there were over 150 boundary umpires. Initially numbers were very low, with MCDFNL and CHFL having senior matches without boundary umpires. It was decided to do a boundary umpire recruitment drive within these two leagues via contacting clubs. Thank you to the Board and Billy in providing support with this. It ended up being a huge success as we gained boundary umpires that ended up being associated with the club and umpiring games. This is something that should be definitely done again, perhaps earlier in the season.

Towards the end of the season, we contacted the boundary umpires to check in with them personally and see how they were progressing. Umpiring mentors Ben Rofe, Brendon Swarbrick and Adam Coles together with Josh and I contacted each umpire which was a big task but well worth it. This proved valuable and provided further insight into how we can support the development of our boundary umpires. It also helped with communicating clearly about the upcoming finals and presentation evening. Thank you Josh, Ben, Brendon and Adam!





Most senior games during the Home and Away season were two umpire systems due to the high number of new, young and inexperienced boundary umpires. Despite this we also had 18 boundaries umpire their first senior BFL game throughout the season which was a great achievement for them. Hopefully this will hold us in good stead next year.

Attendance at training sessions was lower than 2021. Training sessions consisted of developing key skills and fitness. It was also pleasing to have many female boundary umpires too.





Thank you to David Taylor and Brook Reid for organising the fitness drills for training each week in Ballarat, it certainly helped improve fitness levels.

Bacchus Marsh training on Monday nights was well attended with approximately 10 in attendance each week.

To Les Vearing thank you for your assistance, support and feedback with the Maryborough/-Castlemaine panels.

To my main observer Richard Jefferies, thank you for your time and providing feedback both to me and the umpires. Your support and expertise was invaluable. Thank you to Ben Rofe for also observing in your own busy umpiring commitments, and providing feedback and being a very helpful sounding board throughout the season.

We also had a few Academy Umpires who umpired some NAB U16, NAB U18 and VFLW practice matches and matches during the preseason. Joshua Hawkes, Brendon Swarbrick and Solomon Miesen were invited to officiate at the 2022 V/Line Cup Carnival in Shepparton in September. Unfortunately, Josh was unable to attend due to injury. These umpire received some useful feedback and further guidance from observers throughout the Cup, we were proud to have them represent us.

To all the boundary umpires, well done on a great season! Thank you all for your hard work, patience, being so flexible as appointments changed, communicating and working with me. Thank you to their parents for their consistent support too and ensuring that the umpires could show up, grow and be a part of the game.

Finally, to Deb Sleep and the Board and Billy Mitchell, thank you having faith in me again, giving me continual support throughout the whole season and for the opportunity of working alongside you in this role. I look forward to 2023 and working with you all again.

Paul Miesen Boundary Umpire Coach





Goal Coach Report - Brodie Bennett



After season 2021 was cut short just before the finals it was good to see out a season from start to finish.

I had a total of 43 umpires wave the flags throughout the year and had a handful of new goal umpires start their journeys with the BFUA in Harry Hood, Terry Davies, Jason Simmons, Riley Humphries, Rodney Otto, David Taylor, Brendan Brasser, Greg Wakeling, Samantha Todd (returning after 6 years off), Stewart Whitaker (an experienced NTFL umpire who did a couple of games after travelling to Victoria for a little bit) & Tony Miles (Another experienced NTFL umpire who has recently moved to the area).

I used a total of 21 umpires in Ballarat Senior Football this season in and 6 umpires made their debut in Richard Eldridge (Sebastopol vs Darley Round 1), Allan Lepair (Melton South vs Melton Round 1), Stewart Whiteaker (Lake Wendouree vs Melton Round 4), Tony Miles (Sebastopol vs North City Round 5), Riley Humphries (Bacchus Marsh vs Lake Wendouree Round 11) & Terry Davies (Sunbury vs Bacchus Marsh Round 18).

We had several umpires experience their first taste of finals footy and other gathering their first taste of senior finals football in our first finals series since in a few years.

I congratulate Callan Evans on being appointed to BFL Grand Final #8 and equally congratulate Maddisson Piazza on being awarded her 1st BFL Senior Grand Final.

Jim Morton & Allan Lepair both completed their first senior grand finals officiating in the CHFL Grand Final.

Peter Weuffen & Richard Eldridge both completed their first senior grand finals officiating in the MCDFL Grand Final.

I would like to congratulate award winners in Dwayne Smith (Les Baldock Encouragement), Allan Lepair (Most Improved), Riley Humphries (Best First Year) & Callan Evans (Best & Most Consistent). Each umpire impressed throughout the year and thoroughly deserved the award they received on Presentation Night.

I would finally like to thank a few people as well:

- My Observers in Barry Eppingstall, Callan Evans, Brandon Woodyatt & Russell Venn
- All the other coaches in Billy, Paul & Clarky
- To Callan Evans for all his ideas, support and everything else that he has to offer

Another successful year and I hope to continue furthering this group into next season.

Brodie Bennett Goal Umpire Coach





BFUA Youth Voice Committee

By Natasha Petrov

At the start of the year, the BFUA decided to start a youth committee to gain perspective of what it is like to be an umpire in your teens and as young adult, and to bridge the gap between our junior cohort and the more senior cohort.





The Youth Voice Committee is made up of about eight umpires of all genders and disciplines and we meet once a month.

In these meetings we tackle topics like:

- How we can promote more young people in our association
- Building a strong community especially between our junior cohort
- Umpire changerooms and how we can make them a comfortable for everyone
- How it feels to umpire our classmates in local footy and then have to go to school with them the next day
- · How we handle umpire abuse
- · Training and how we can get more people to go
- · Gender and age issues
- Planning youth events like the AFL night

Through this year we have been able to run a training and a trip down to the MCG for a match between St Kilda and Western Bulldogs.

We can't wait for what 2023 will bring us with the start of the year being all about how to get young people like us into umpiring.

If you are between the age of 13-21 and are interested in joining the committee, we would love to hear your voice, and to the wider BFUA community we would like to thank you for your ongoing support.

Natasha Petrov Youth Voice Committee member and Field Umpire





2022 Junior Award Winners

Congratulations to these high achieving umpires who have shown promising signs for the future! We cannot wait to see where you take your umpiring in the coming years.

Best Junior First Year Field Umpire **Ally Steenhuis, Jacob Rae**

Junior Field Coaches Award **Tom Mulcock**

Mentor of the Year Award **Peter Brown**



Junior Boundary Coaches Award **Ethan Pring, Eamon Wakefield**

Best Junior First Year Boundary Umpire

Jake Stringer, Sabrina Goodie









2022 Senior Award Winners

Congratulations to our Senior Award Winners who have shown commitment, passion and skill whilst demonstrating the BFUA Trademarks in everything they do.

Barry Eppingstall Club Person of the Year **Glenn Chiswell**

Training Award

Brendan Brasser, Hamish Jones, Erica Jones

Les Baldock Goal Umpire Encouragement Award **Dwayne Smith**

Barry Eppingstall Club Person of the Year **Glenn Chiswell**

Most Improved Goal Umpire **Allan Lepair**

Best First Year Goal Umpire
Riley Humphries

Most Improved Boundary Umpire

Jake Shillito

Best First Year Boundary Umpire – Steve Perry Award

Ned Murnane

Best First Year Field Umpire – Shane McInerney Award **Steve Aleksic**

Most Improved Field Umpire

Damian Irvin









2022 Highest On-Field Honours

Best & Most Consistent Field Umpire

Adrian Tinetti



Best & Most Consistent Boundary Umpire

Solomon Miesen



Best & Most Consistent Goal Umpire

Callan Evans



Golden Whistle Award

Oliver Pearce







Ballarat Football Netball League Seniors



Field: Adrian Tinetti, Brock Reid, Brent Irvin

Boundary: Solomon Miesen, Isaac Rossato, Oliver

Cukavac, Charlie Goldsworthy

Goal: Callan Evans, Maddi Piazza

Emergency Field: Oliver Pearce





Central Highlands Football League Seniors



Field: Chris Jones, Peter Brown, Oliver Pearce

Boundary: Josh Rofe, Angus Murfett, Jake Shillito,

Cody Gates

Goal: Allan Lepair, Jim Morton

Emergency Field: Adam Coles





Maryborough Castlemaine District Football Netball League Seniors



Field: Peter Every, Brian Edwards, Stephen McConville

Boundary: Daniel O'Brien, Abel Griffiths, Charlie

Chapman, Hamish Jones

Goal: Peter Weuffen, Richard Eldridge

Emergency Field: Glenn Chiswell





BFLW Grand Final Appointments

BFLW Seniors

REDAN DEF DARLEY

SATURDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER, @ MARS STADIUM, BALLARAT

Field:

Chris Jones Matilda Pearce Imogen Thorne

Boundary:

Sabrina Goodia Charli Mclennan Erica Jones Anna Seymour

Goal:

Terry Davies Jason Simmons

BFLW U18

REDAN DEF NORTH BALLARAT
SATURDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER, @ MARS STADIUM, BALLARAT

Field:

Natasha Petrov Ally Steenhuis Brock Reid

Boundary:

Sinead Gallagher Sophia Mckay Tessa Wilson James McKay

Goal:

Suzanne Olsen Dwayne Smith





BFLW Grand Final Appointments

BFLW U16

NORTH BALLARAT BACCHUS MARSH
SATURDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER, @ MARS STADIUM, BALLARAT

Field:

Alex Bourke Richard Nash kate Tomkins

Boundary:

Molly Hill Willem Madigan Harrison Scardiamaglia isaac Cassidy

Goal:

Riley Humphries Chris Hood

BFLW U14

NORTH BALLARAT DEF DARLEY
SATURDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER, @ MARS STADIUM, BALLARAT

Field:

Chris Collett Tim Cochrane

Boundary:

Arya Donovan-Clancy Daisy Donovan-Clancy Nash Armstrong Oliver Wakeling

Goal:

Suzanne Olsen Dwayne Smith





Reserves Grand Final Appointments

BFNL Reserves

SATURDAY 17[™] SEPTEMBER, @ MARS STADIUM, BALLARAT

Field:

Robert Simmonds jack Anderson Damian Irvin

Boundary:

Will Beechey Ned Murnane Brendan Swarbrick Charlie McClure

Goal:

Richard Eldridge Doug Mills

CHFL Reserves

SATURDAY 10[™] SEPTEMBER, @ MARS STADIUM, BALLARAT

Field:

Jarrod Psaila Tyla Reid Shane Herbertson

Boundary:

Cree Ward Cooper Beseler Noah Cochrane Theodore Farrell

Goal:

Mick Toner Alex Martin





Reserves Grand Final Appointments

MCDFNL Reserves

SATURDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER, @ PRINCES PARK, MARYBOROUGH

Field:

Mathew Muster Shane Moore Glen Trigg

Boundary:

Jordan Muster Orin McKay Connor Williams Eric Wilkinson

Goal:

Brandon Woodyatt Russell Venn





MCDFNL U11.5

SATURDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER, @ PRINCES PARK, MARYBOROUGH

Field:

Danny Dyer Ian Lovel

Goal:

Rodney Otto Andrew Taylor

MCDFNL U14.5

SATURDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER, @ PRINCES PARK, MARYBOROUGH

Field:

Riley Gallagher Frank Williams Pat Cashin

Boundary:

Harry Waight Zac Cicchini Joel Pratt James Purkis

Goal:

Rodney Otto Andrew Taylor





MCDFNL U17.5

SATURDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER, @ PRINCES PARK, MARYBOROUGH

Field:

David Tobin John Bond Daryl Devereux

Boundary:

Lachlan McKay Jack Kinnersley Xavier Rossato Fletcher McAinch

Goal:

Dwayne Smith Malcolm Fletcher

CHFL U15

SATURDAY 10[™] SEPTEMBER, @ MARS STADIUM, BALLARAT

Field:

Brent Delahey Tim Gallagher Kyle Ettridge

Boundary:

Harry Geyle James Tippett Jud Buckland Jack Nijam

Goal:

Phil McNeil Mark Harris





CHFL U18

SATURDAY 10[™] SEPTEMBER, @ MARS STADIUM, BALLARAT

Tristan Stockley Peter Humphries Callan Ward

Boundary:

Lachlan Kaye Caleb Ortiz Millie Lang Jess Norton

Ethan Ash Greg Wakeling

BFNL U19

SATURDAY 17[™] SEPTEMBER, @ MARS STADIUM, BALLARAT

Matilda Pearce Mark Warwick Noah Quick

Boundary:

Sam White Riley James Reg Whittle Jarvis Wright

Riley Humphries Chris Hood







BFNL Under 17 Seniors



BFNL Under 17 Reserves











BFNL Under 15 Reserves







BFNL Under 13 Seniors



BFNL Under 13 Reserves







BFNL Under 11 Seniors















































The Year in Photos









































