



**BASEBALL**  
VICTORIA

# Behind the Mask

Umpire Program



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## OVERVIEW OF THE 'BEHIND THE MASK' PROGRAM

The Behind the Mask Umpire Program seeks to promote a basic training and development program for beginner umpires. It aims to teach the fundamentals of umpiring, enhance the development of umpires, and identify candidates to undertake the progression of umpiring development and accreditation to higher levels of umpiring. The program seeks to promote the role of umpiring to beginners looking to get involved with umpiring.

If you require any additional information on umpiring in Victoria, please refer to the [Umpiring](#) section on the Baseball Victoria website.

## PURPOSE

The purpose of this program is to create a framework that supports and develops the beginner to association umpires, providing the tools to support them both on and off the diamond.

This program has a three-pronged strategy:

1. To inform beginner umpires about the basics needed to umpire a game of baseball,
2. To inform clubs about how best to encourage, protect and educate beginner umpires, and
3. To inform umpires of the process toward further Accreditation – Community and Association

## ROLE OF THE UMPIRE

The role of the umpire varies considerably depending on the level at which he or she is officiating. However generally speaking, most umpires would have three common aims in relation to their participant players:

1. To ensure a safe environment for the game
2. To encourage the involvement of all players and
3. To make the sport enjoyable

Umpires should aim to improve the quality of the baseball experience for each participant by;

- being able to impartially make sound and reasonable decisions that display fairness.
- displaying sound communication skills in dealing with both players and their coaches
- performing their role in a manner that earns the respect of players, fostering healthy and positive attitudes toward umpires and the game of baseball
- ensuring a safe environment for all providing good game management
- not dictating but taking charge and effectively manage the game
- being able to project yourself with your knowledge, and fair and impartial decisions

## THE BEHIND THE MASK PROGRAM PATHWAY

### Behind the Mask

- Completed Registration
- Completion of ASC [Officiating General Principals](#) course
- Have a current working with Children [Working with Children Check](#)
- Understanding of the very basic of the game – booklet information
- Complete basic online rules quiz

### Community Umpire Course & Accreditation - Green Shirt

- Completion of ASC [Officiating General Principals](#) course
- Completion of [Community Umpire Program](#)
- Have a current working with Children [Working with Children Check](#)
- 2hr practical instruction session
- Complete Community online rules exam

### Association Umpire Course & Accreditation - Blue Shirt

- Successful Completion of Community Umpire Program as pre-requisite (Recognition of Prior Learning and/or Current Competency will be available)
- Proper registration on BV's recognised National Sporting Database
- 6 hours of Instructor led or self-paced training on baseball rules and interpretations
- 6 hours of Practical Instruction based on the Two-Umpire System
- Complete and pass the online Association Umpire theory exam with 70% or above pass mark
- Two practical game assessments by qualified umpire assessor

## COMMUNITY OFFICIATING GENERAL PRINCIPLES

The Community Officiating General Principles (COGP) online course has been developed through the Australian Sports Commission to assist officials in learning the basic skills they will need to officiate effectively. The course is free of charge to Australian officials!

The course contains three modules, covering a range of general officiating topics, including ethical responsibilities, preparation, safety, communication, dealing with conflict and people management. Course completion is approximately 2 hours with certificate upon successful assessment completion.

Australian Sports Commission course link [Officiating General Principals](#)



## UMPIRE RESOURCE KIT

Upon registration, Behind the Mask Umpires will receive a umpire starter pack and further kit from Baseball Victoria in the following order:

- On registration starter pack – Shirt and Indicator\*
- After 5 games of umpiring – Cap\*
- After 10 games of umpiring – Baseball Bag\*
- After 15 games of umpiring – Brush\*
- After 20 games of umpiring – BV Backpack\*

*\*Games include in the above 5-20 are those where the Behind the Mask umpire is listed on and has signed the game sheet as an official record. It is the umpire's responsibility to make sure they are listed on and have signed the game sheet.*



BV Umpire Shirt



Indicator



BV Umpire Cap



Baseball Bag



Brush



BV Backpack

\* Items and colours may not be exactly as shown

## UMPIRE PAYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Registered Behind the Mask umpires have an opportunity to receive game payments for plate and base umpiring. This will only occur if the registered 'Behind the Mask Umpire' is listed on and has signed the official game sheet. It is the umpire's responsibility to make sure they are listed on the game sheet.

To start your umpiring path and for payment opportunity, those that play on a Sunday or start out on their umpiring journey can make themselves available for the Saturday Women's and metro league competitions and in addition Masters tournaments and events.

If you require any information on starting your baseball umpiring path, please contact the Baseball Victoria technical officer via email at [BV Umpire Technical Officer](mailto:BV Umpire Technical Officer)

## UMPIRE SUPPLIERS

Umpire Supplies and other uniform pieces can be purchased from:



[Ausport Umpire Collection](#)



[K2 Baseball](#)

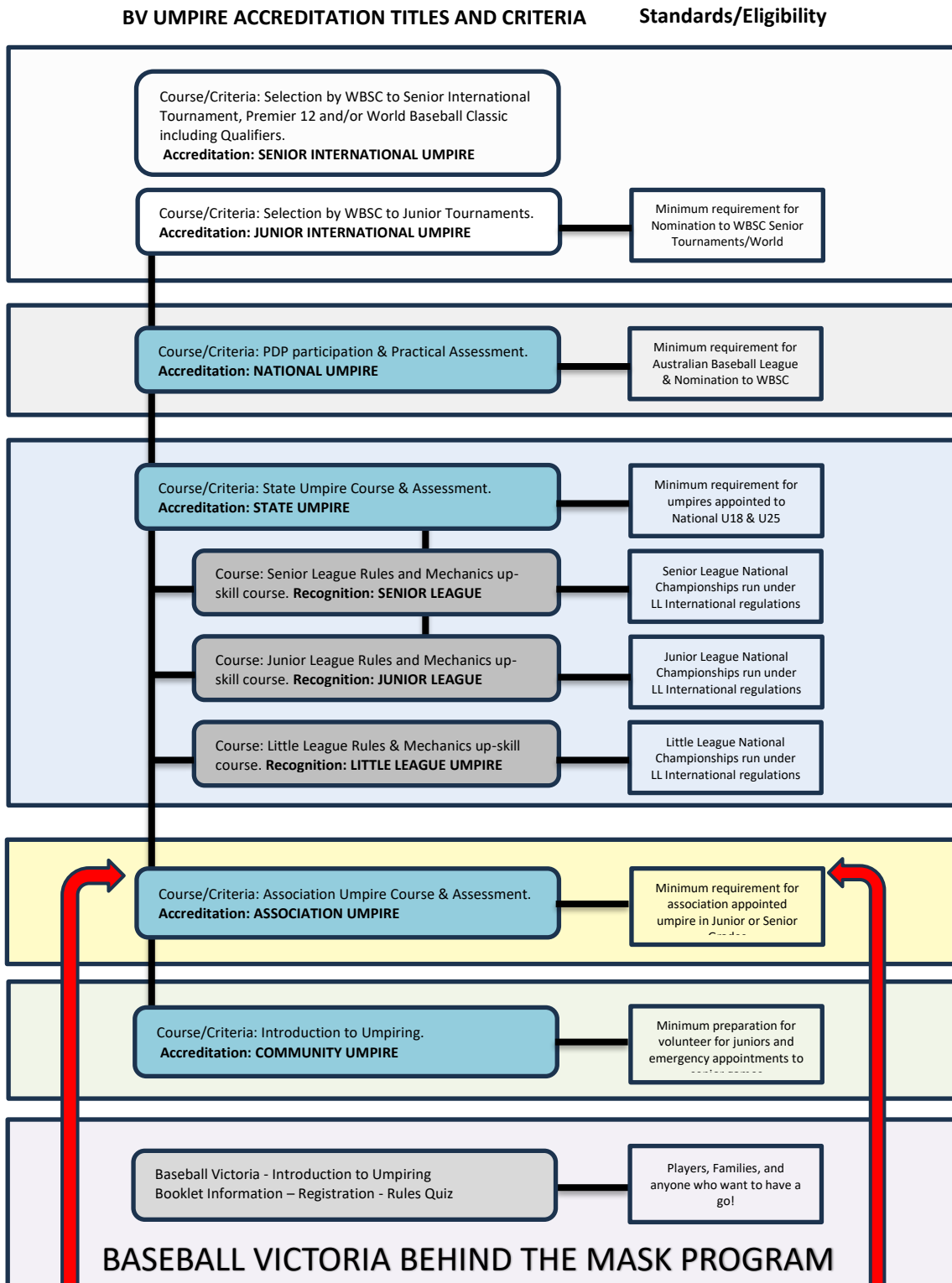


[Fielders Choice Umpires Gear](#)



[Greatrex Umpire Gear](#)

# THE UMPIRING PATHWAY



## EDUCATION

### Behind the Mask – The Basics of Umpiring

- ASC Online [Officiating General Principals](#)
- Complete basic online rules quiz

### Community Umpiring Course

Community **Green Shirt** umpires can officiate at Beginner ball level and senior ball games if assessed by Baseball Victoria and deemed capable of doing so.

- ASC Online [Officiating General Principals](#)
- Complete Community online rules exam
- Community Umpire Program including a 2hr baseball specific on-field training on:
  - **Rules**  
Practical knowledge, comprehension, and application of rules to acquaint umpires with the reasons for rules, the means of defining and communicating them and to develop a spirit in the application of rules that raises the conduct, enjoyment, and spectacle of Baseball.
  - **Positioning Mechanics.**  
Value correct mechanics to place an umpire in the best position to exercise a judgement or decision.
  - **Signaling Mechanics.**  
To establish correct signal techniques and consistent knowledge of the reasons for same.

### Association Umpire Course

The **Blue Shirt** umpires can officiate low level senior and beginner games at club level. They will be assessed by Baseball Victoria to ensure they can officiate at this level. Baseball Victoria will help train and work with these umpires regularly, helping them become better umpires, capable of doing any senior baseball game.

*Field Work topics to be covered in practical sessions:*

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| ➤ Signals  | ➤ Runner 1st to 3rd   |
| ➤ Fair/Foul  | ➤ Plate umpire responsibilities – batted ball                   |
| ➤ Dead Ball/ Live Ball                             | ➤ Fly ball responsibilities                                     |
| ➤ Play/ Attempted Play                             | ➤ Infield Fly   |
| ➤ Angle/Distance                                   | ➤ Plate stance – soft toss drill – pitching machine – cage work |
| ➤ Out/ Safe  |   |
| ➤ Pitcher’s Cover                                  |   |
| ➤ Ball batted down first base line – no runners on | <i>Topics to be covered in face-to-face training sessions:</i>  |
| ➤ Pivots   | ➤ <i>Duty of Care</i>   |
| ➤ Infield hits                                     | ➤ <i>Strike Zone</i>  |
| ➤ Outfield hits                                    | ➤ <i>Definitions</i>  |
| ➤ Pop-ups  | ➤ <i>Positions with runner/s on base</i>                        |
| ➤ Clearing the catcher                             | ➤ <i>Trouble balls</i>  |
| ➤ Bouncing ball through the catcher                | ➤ <i>Balks</i>  |
| ➤ Two pitching positions                           | ➤ <i>Pick-offs Rundowns</i>                                     |
| ➤ Award of bases                                   | ➤ <i>Runner on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup></i>            |
| ➤ Plays at the plate                               |   |
| ➤ Double play                                      |   |

Passport Registration [HERE](#)

Further information can be found at: <https://baseballvictoria.com.au/umpire/>