



## **Chief Umpire Report**

September 2017

Firstly I would like to thank the NSWPA for entrusting me with the Chief Umpires position, for the second part of the season following the resignation of Sam.

I would like to thank Ashlee Keating for compiling the Draw at the NSW Zone Championships at Warren. It did generate a little discussion on the Friday evening at the Umpires Meeting and this is always healthy. It is better that all teams know how the draw is working before it becomes an issue after the first games on Saturday morning. I would also like to thank Colin Parkinson and Brian Johnston for their assistance in allocating umpires, and dealing with other issues that arose over the weekend.

Warren Club is to be congratulated on working towards making the fields as playable as possible, under difficult conditions, and also their hard work to reposition the main field very early on Sunday morning, to make it the best for the finals.

Players need to remember that at all venues, they need to be aware of, and play to the conditions.

I would like to thank all the umpires for their punctuality and their hard work umpiring over the weekend. We discussed that if an umpire could not make a game that was allocated to them, that to effect a change it needed to be done through their Zone Chief Umpire. I think there were definitely a few occasions when this was not adhered to. I would like to make players aware that umpires are allotted games for a variety of reasons, and sometimes it is because of the grade or the division, sometimes a male and female are required for the whole round of a Mixed for instance, so it is consistent right the way through the draw. We don't just put names on a page, a considerable amount of time is taken to compile the umpires to suitable games, and therefore players/umpires need to attend the game they are allocated to unless there are extenuating circumstances, and it meets with the approval of the Zone and Tournament Umpire.

There was also one issue that I was made aware of when supporters/parents were disgruntled with an incident from a Junior game. The umpires were VERY confident of their decision, and ruled on it accordingly. It is a little disturbing that these people were fairly vocal, and were wanting to push the issue further. The umpires were completely satisfied with the outcome, and it was over. Certainly we all need to be vigilant on player safety, and our umpires also have a Duty of Care in their on field performance/s.

Finally I think our umpires need to be more vigilant on the impact of poor swings not only on their opponent, but also that of the horses. Bad swings and illegal horse hits NEED to be ON our radar for 2018.

All the Best for the 2018 Season.

Charlie Grills