

WHAT MAKES A GREAT UMPIRE?

THE TEN "C'S"

- 1) CONFIDENCE
- 2) CONCENTRATION
- 3) COMMUNICATION
- 4) COMMONSENSE
- 5) COURTESY
- 6) COMPASSION
- 7) CONSISTENCY
- 8) COURAGE OF CONVICTIONS
- 9) COMMITMENT
- 10) CONTROL

Players, coaches and administrators often ask this question. Rather than select a model umpire to follow, it is important to select the characteristics that a "respected" umpire possesses.

1. INTELLIGENCE

This does not necessarily refer to a person with a high IQ. It refers to an umpire who is curious, open-minded to feedback and improvement, can appraise a situation quickly and accurately and make an appropriate decision.

Umpire intelligence is developed as a result of knowledge gained from a multitude of sources such as on field experience, coaching sessions, feedback and honest self-evaluation. Every time we umpire should be an opportunity to learn more about the game, the athletes who are participating and your own strengths and weaknesses.

2. DRIVE

The respected umpire should be an achievement oriented person who tries to make things happen rather than waiting for something to fall their way. Realistic outcomes should be set for each game of the season.

3. PERSISTENCE

Umpires need to have fortitude to persist in the face of adversity and frustration. They will understand that setbacks are an inevitable experience during a career but these glitches should only be seen as temporary and an essential part of the learning process. Development and improvement will take place with a positive, optimistic outlook. All of these factors lead to a strong development of persistence. "The best feeling is when someone pushes you to the limit and you dig a little deeper"

4. PATIENCE

Umpires need to work methodically and systematically towards improvement in aspects of performance including those areas in which he/she may be resistant to change. Sometimes change in performance and promotion to higher games can be frustratingly slow but this is part of the challenge of umpiring to be able to respect the judgement of others and take the required steps patiently and methodically in order to achieve ultimate success.

5. ENTHUSIASM

A spirited vital approach to umpiring showing obvious enjoyment for the task is an essential ingredient for umpiring success. A consistently high EQ (Enthusiasm Quotient) shows a genuine commitment to the role and draws a positive response from Observers, Coaches, Officials and Players.

6. KNOWLEDGE

The umpire needs a thorough knowledge of the rules, techniques and tactics of the sport. Knowledge is gained by being prepared to listen to others, observing higher level umpires on field performances, responding positively to coaching feedback and having an open mind to change.

7. CONSCIENTIOUSNESS

The umpire must be the standard setter at all times. The quantity of commitment in terms of time, thought and effort is often accurately reflected in an on-field performance.

8. CONFIDENCE

Umpires need to develop the confidence to sell decisions. Many experienced umpires are experts in this area. Umpires also need to develop the confidence to handle the individual players who may react or over react in certain situations. The confidence the umpire displays can have a positive effect on fellow officials as well as your match management. Strange thing about confidence is that no-one knows where it comes from or where it goes when it deserts you.

9. EMOTIONAL STABILITY

An umpire needs to be sufficiently stable emotionally to remain in control during emotionally charged or volatile situations.

10. DECISIVENESS

An umpire needs to be decisive in what he/she wants to achieve both long term and short term on match day. An indecisive umpire will have a detrimental effect on his/her team as well as the game.

11. CHARACTER

Umpires need to be people that have integrity, sincerity and a disciplined attitude to the task. They need to have the courage to try new approaches. They should never take the soft option.

12. ORGANISATION

In order for improvement to take place the umpire needs to be sufficiently organised to be able to undertake regular training sessions, have his/her umpiring gear in impeccable order and arrive at fixtures by the designated time.

13. PREPARATION

Without thorough preparation for a game, the inevitable consequences will become apparent very quickly. Diet, fitness, motivation and a match plan are essential for success. The single most positive performance indicator is the perception of being prepared.

14. SENSE OF HUMOUR

Relaxed and confident umpires relate positively to difficult field situations. Sometimes a humorous remark can diffuse a volatile situation extremely quickly.

15. APPROPRIATE ROLE MODEL

The umpire should be an excellent role model for players to follow. This requires the umpire to remain cool when players may be out of control, dressing appropriately on match day, both on and off the field and taking pride in your physical condition.

In your own time you should rate yourself with these characteristics. A mark of 15 out of 15 should be your goal. If it isn't at present, highlight the areas you need to improve upon to address the issues. The person to benefit the most will be you.

#	ATTRIBUTE	UNDER CONTROL Yes/No?	AREA FOR IMPROVEMENT
1	INTELLIGENCE		
2	DRIVE		
3	PERSISTENCE		
4	PATIENCE		
5	ENTHUSIASM		
6	KNOWLEDGE		
7	CONSCIENTIOUSNESS		
8	CONFIDENCE		
9	EMOTIONAL STABILITY		
10	DECISIVENESS		
11	CHARACTER		
12	ORGANISATION		
13	PREPARATION		
14	SENSE OF HUMOUR		
15	APPROPRIATE ROLE MODEL		