

Hi All

Hope you are well and looking forward to a rest week. In that, you can still go for a run or a bike ride, it is up to you, stay fresh as we don't have long to the start of the 2020 season. In getting ready, it is now highly possible that we will be running a U18.5 boys' competition also. This will involve field, boundary and goal umpires. The WRFL are currently determining which teams are playing and when.

There is no doubt that the bulk of the junior games will be played on Sunday with a possibility that some games, most likely U18.5 boys', could run on Saturday morning.

I will survey the group around your availability when we have a better idea which age groups are being played on what days.

The following will occur in 2020:

TRAINING: (commencing Tuesday 7 July)

- Goal – Hanmer Tuesday and Thursday. 5.30-6.15pm
- Boundary – Hanmer Tuesday and Thursday. 6.00-6.45pm
- Field – Hanmer Tuesday and Thursday. 6.00-6.45pm
- **NO academy training or coaching sessions will be held at MacKillop or Emmanuel College in 2020.**

UMPIRE DISCIPLINE:

Junior Field Umpiring:

If you play U14 or higher and field umpire, then U12 mixed is the only grade you can umpire, unless you have a few years experienced in field umpiring with the WRFL and can umpire U18.5 boys on a Saturday, **IF** they play Saturday. Please remember that skill sessions/coaching can only occur at Hanmer on a **THURSDAY** night. So, if you are a first-year field umpire you can only be coached during a game or at training on a **THURSDAY** night only.

Junior Boundary Umpiring:

If you play U14, U15 girls, U16 boys or U18.5 girls you **CANNOT** umpire on Sunday, due to scheduling of games. You can still boundary umpire but that will have to be on Saturday in the U18.5 boys, **IF** they play Saturday. Skill sessions/coaching will occur at Hanmer on both **TUESDAY** and **THURSDAY** night. If you can't get to either training session you can only be coached in a game. Those umpires who require a mentor to run with on game day will get paid less until you are deemed capable of umpiring in a 3-umpire system to start with (which is at a lower rate), then a 2-umpire system for full pay.

Junior Goal Umpiring:

If you play U14, U15 girls, U16 boys or U18.5 girls you **CANNOT** umpire on Sunday, due to scheduling of games. You can still goal umpire but that will have to be on Saturday in the U18.5 boys, **IF** they play Saturday. Skill sessions/coaching will occur at Hanmer on both **TUESDAY** and **THURSDAY** night. If you can't get to either training session you can only be coached in a game. That will mean you require a mentor to umpire with you on game day, so you

get paid less until you are deemed capable of umpiring on your own in a 2-umpire system for full pay.

I am hoping this information will give new and existing young umpires a clear context around season 2020. Details around age groups and what time they are playing will not be known for some weeks, please be patient in allowing the WRFL to schedule the season.

If you wish to play football OR not umpire at all in 2020 that is perfectly fine. We clearly understand that everybody has different personal reasons and family situations that need to **COME FIRST**. We will not consider you any different in season 2021 and look forward to catching up with you then.

UNIFORMS:

First year field and boundary umpires will be supplied with a whistle and goal umpires a set of flags.

However, until we know how many first-year umpires will be running in 2020, we cannot provide details around uniform provisions. Please be patient, further details will be announced prior to the start of the season.

MATCH PAYMENTS:

There **WILL BE** a reduction in match payments for season 2020. The WRFLUA are meeting with the WRFL to finalise match payments and conditions for season 2020 tomorrow morning, so those details will be included in next weeks information email.

COACHING SESSIONS:

There are no formal coaching sessions to be held INSIDE at Hanmer, as in the past. All coaching session will be held within the training sessions at Hanmer. So, you may spend time around the 'football mat' discussing position, or have your coach discuss various aspects of the laws. What will happen is information given to you via ZOOM and/or emails, which you can watch/read, but then send questions via email to your coach. I will detail more about that next week.

RANKING/FINALS SELECTION:

There is **NONE**. Season 2020 is an opportunity to develop our junior umpires and set the WRFL umpires up for future growth. Every time I talk about coaching, I constantly reiterate that 'We are all coaches, in that, if you have experience then you are expected to support and develop those with less experience for the benefit of the WRFL umpires. Without this support there is no future, and nothing is better than being part of the development of a younger umpire'. We will support grand finals by appointing senior, experienced umpires as role models of umpiring in those games. However, they will most probably be partnered with younger umpires, who have demonstrated throughout the 2020 season a willingness to further their umpiring skills.

If you need any areas clarified, please contact me so you clearly understand what will occur in 2020.

Catch you on the track **NEXT** week

Mark