



## **PREPARATION**

Preparation is the Key

To enable our decision making process to be Objective as possible **WE** need to be prepared.

Preparation throughout the season is important and can set up your season!

Think positively – As soon as you receive your Finals Appointment and from that moment on you need to start your preparation.

These key areas are important as we prepare for what lies ahead!

### **KNOWLEDGE**

- Knowledge of the Laws – Read up on any Laws you are not totally sure about
- Re-read the Finals By-Laws so that you are able to officiate to the best of your abilities.
- When you are called upon to make Judgements on a matter of Fact, we will call on our knowledge to make the right decision.

### **POSITIONING**

- Knowledge of the BEST position to take up for you to view what is happening is vital.
- Umpires who know the BEST position and consistently take up that position will be more confident of their judgement.

### **FITNESS**

- You have a Home & Away season under your belt so Umpires should have an appropriate level of fitness, which will enable you to have a clear mind and should not be affected by fatigue

### **RELAXATION**

- When an umpire is relaxed, but alert, they are better prepared to cope with making decisions, so try to relax when you can but switch back on when required to do so.

### **FOCUS**

- Focus on what is happening NOW – what happened last week, yesterday, last over or last ball, cannot be changed. Thinking about what lies ahead does not help. Focus on what is happening now!

## **CONCENTRATION**

- All umpires should base their decisions on what they SEE & HEAR.
- You should not complicate the issue by concerning yourselves with who is batting or bowling or which teams are playing, or the state of the match, or what score the batter is on; so, concentration is the key!

## **ELIMINATE DISTRACTIONS**

- Eliminate all other possible influences by ignoring spectator's comments. Ignore player's body language or facial expressions or forceful appeals.

## **COMMUNICATION**

- Your communication is paramount in every match you umpire.
- If you are running late for any reason, call your partner or the venue to let them know.
- Communicating prior to the start of your match; you should discuss with your colleague your game plan for the day such as;
  - What is the current weather conditions.
  - What end will we take up
  - Confirm what time do we take drinks
  - What time is tea
  - How many overs are to be bowled
  - If using a White ball, how different it is compared to the Red ball
  - Know where the scorers are situated
  - Make sure all signals to the scorers are acknowledged.

Good communication skills can assist us with;

- Confidence
- Good relations with others
- Ability to cope with pressure
- Ability to show leadership
- A healthy positive self image
- The ability to handle conflict

## **DECISION MAKING**

- To enable you to make the correct decision, follow a process without any influence, such as a player's body language or the force of an appeal.
- Keep your head still and use your eyes at the bowler's end
- If you have knowledge of the Laws & By-Laws you can give your decision with 100% confidence.
- Base your decisions on What you See & What you Hear.
- Give your decision in a timely fashion – 1, 2 & on 3 give your decision is usually the best method. Taking too long will look like you are unsure and if too quick usually means you did not take the time to make an informed decision, and this will assist the scorers as well.
- Remember at all times – when in Doubt, Not Out

## **TEAMWORK**

- Walk out onto the ground together
- During the match work with your partner
  - Signal to each other after every No Ball or Wide
  - 2 to go
  - Tic, Tac Toe
- Look at each other on a regular basis so both of you are in tune at all times.
- After calling over walk backwards towards square leg so you can see if any player is saying something to an opponent.
- Walk backwards to square leg so you can watch if the fielding players are walking on the wicket.
- Help each other, if an umpire has cause to speak to the captain or another player, let your partner know or get them to come over and be part of the discussion, whatever is appropriate.
- Watch players going off and players coming on the field of play.
- The umpire at square leg should assist their partner with above the shoulder deliveries and above waist high deliveries by showing with your hand that it was above or below the shoulder or head or above waist high.
- Check the balls condition from time to time, however, do not handle the ball.
- Support each other at all times & remember to enjoy your finals game as you have earned it.

**“Fail to Plan, Plan to Fail”**

All the best

Brian “Benny” Goodman