



# Modern Officiating Approach

## Shaping the future of sport in Australia

### State of play

Participation and physical activity rates have declined significantly with 50% of children and 81% of adults not sufficiently active for health benefits. In Australia, 91% of female and 89% of male adolescents aged 11-17 are below the healthy activity range according to the World Health Organisation Prevalence of Physical Inactivity study.<sup>1</sup>

The sporting landscape has changed remarkably over the last three decades, with a sharp rise in diverse talent, new formats, technologies and participant expectations and different motivations and relationships with sport. Sports are facing new challenges to recruiting and retaining officials, including changing lifestyles and the influence of social media. Despite these changes, our approach to officiating has largely stayed the same.

The need for change is clear!

### Evolution

The Australian Sports Commission (ASC) is leading a modern approach to transform the sporting experience and encourage more people to participate in, officiate, coach and enjoy sport. A core element of the modern approach is recognising the importance officials and coaches being aligned in their efforts to support and create positive sporting environments.

Developed in collaboration with the sport system, the new approach focuses on the participant and their individual needs, aspirations and motivations. It's about supporting and empowering officials to facilitate positive sporting environments where participants, officials, coaches, volunteers and communities can thrive.

The modern approach sees officials play a broader role in creating positive sporting environments. They do more than just apply the rules of the sport and move up through accreditation levels. The new approach involves ongoing personal and environmentally specific development offerings for officials, informed by their requirements. This enables them to continually improve their officiating skills for the benefit of participants, whether they are learning, participating socially or playing at a competitive level.



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<sup>1</sup> Challenges in global surveillance of physical activity, The Lancet Child & Adolescent Health, Volume 4, Issue 1, January 2020, Pages 2-3.



HISTORIC APPROACH	MODERN APPROACH
Official centred	Participant centred
Compliance	Developing competencies to deliver an optimal experience for participants
One size fits all	Adapting to meet the needs of participants
Officials are competition administrators	Officials have a more holistic, multifaceted role and they are attuned to the requirements of the participants and the sporting environment.
Formal learning only	Bespoke learning opportunities
Officiating resources developed and provided in isolation	Coach and official development resources are aligned
Decrease in retention and recruitment of officials	Increased recruitment and retention of officials who enjoy what they do

## Benefits

### For participants



- ✓ Play sport on their terms.
- ✓ Improve their fundamental motor and physical literacy skills.
- ✓ Inspire them to participate in sport for life.
- ✓ Enjoy safe, positive and inclusive environments.
- ✓ Experience a sense of belonging.

### For officials



- ✓ Facilitate environments that enable participants and athletes to achieve their own version of success.
- ✓ Feel motivated to officiate and inspire others.
- ✓ Extend your existing knowledge through learning and engagement opportunities.
- ✓ Access personal and professional development to positively impact your officiating skills and other aspects of life.
- ✓ Learn how to manage challenges in modern sporting environments.

### For sports and clubs



- ✓ Improve culture, integrity and diversity.
- ✓ Reduce risk.
- ✓ Increase recruitment and retention.
- ✓ Attract and retain new participants and fans.
- ✓ Improve confidence and competence of officials leading to safe, inclusive competition environments.
- ✓ Empower and support officials to contribute to individual club and community goals.

## Support for Sport

The ASC is developing a suite of resources, advisory services and blended learning opportunities, including free online courses to support sports and officials as they embrace the Modern Officiating Approach.

National sporting organisations and national sporting organisations for people with disability are encouraged to connect with the ASC's Coaching and Officiating Team at [officiating@ausport.gov.au](mailto:officiating@ausport.gov.au) to learn more about the support available to embed the new approach and develop plans to boost officials' education, recruitment and retention.

[ausport.gov.au/officiating](https://ausport.gov.au/officiating)

