

South Metropolitan Cricket Association

Minutes of the Special I General Meeting 9 January 2023

Held at Thornlie Cricket Club



The President Mark Rice declared the meeting open at 7 pm and welcomed attendees.

PRESENT: Mark Rice (President), David King, Mario Baeli, Peter Anderson, Norm Harris, Steven Kemp, Jason Landsmeer, Shamez Rashid, John Griffin (Secretary).

Clubs – As per attendance list. Clubs who were not present at the meeting were Armadale, Kelmscott, Roleystone and SJ Blues.

APOLOGIES: Mark Inannello, Ian Del Rosso, Graham Santich, Gary Hartman, Armadale President.

Mark Rice welcomed all, thanked them for their attendance and stated the purpose of the meeting.

The Special General Meeting was called to address player behaviour and umpire respect due to instances of unacceptable player behaviour and intimidation of umpires, in particular players who are officiating as an umpire in a match.

David King informed the meeting that player behaviour and attitude towards umpires was unacceptable and clubs need to report bad behaviour and make umpires welcome.

Norm Harris informed the meeting that self-umpiring is a problem and there been instances of aggressive player behaviour towards an umpire. All Associations are struggling for umpires and the attitudes towards umpires needs to improve. Training of club umpires should be considered and provided.

The Clubs are responsible for player behaviour and respecting umpires. The SMCA has penalties for unacceptable behaviour and umpire abuse, these need to be strengthened.

General discussion then ensued with comments from various attendees:

- Clubs and Committees to take responsibility for players.
- Clubs to have penalties in addition to SMCA imposed penalties.
- P&D needs strengthening along with prescribed penalties.
- Match reports to be submitted by all teams. These need to be developed
- Umpire payments need to be reviewed to encourage more umpires.
- Issues/Incidents/non-compliance etc to be reported.
- Some players who are umpiring do not know the Laws of Cricket and the SMCA bylaws.
- Team captains are responsible for ensuring that their players who are sent out to umpire are competent.

- The Spirit of Cricket must be followed.
- Base line of key issues.
- Review of player penalties
- P&D involvement
- Team Captains to take responsibility -talk to other team prior to match starting.
- Clubs need to educate their players
- Association umpires can assist clubs in development of 'player umpires'
- Match issues should be reported and a report submitted.
- \$40 accreditation of club members to become umpires
- Sledging
- Look at arranging 7/9 team competitions so that the bye club umpires the remaining games
- Umpires asked for a general push for retired/injured players to come and umpire
- How many P&D sessions were held to date
- Options for match day reports
- Scoring system to determine player behaviour
- Boolean so if No marked mandatory comments required
- reporting on these results for transparency
- Association to provide guidance in a letter to the clubs outlining our minimum baseline

The following five key points were noted and to be introduced:

1. Introduce a match report for all self-umpired games to enable clubs to advise how the game was played. This will be a mandatory field (Yes/No). If No, then details will then need to be provided with as much context as possible to help the Association understand what the concerns are.
2. Umpires to visit each club and discuss the general rules of cricket. This session will also be used to enable clubs to ask questions of umpires to seek clarification.
3. Captains to bring teams together at the beginning of games to harness the boundaries of how the game is going to proceed to help avoid confusion, discontent, and maintain a level of consistency when self-umpiring.
4. Ask Captains, when able, not to send juniors out to perform Main Umpire duties. Rather ask them to preside at Square Leg. It is also imperative that the Square Leg does not take a mobile phone out to avoid distractions during the game.

5. Teams are asked to reduce the effect of over-appealing. Specifically, when appealing, please do not charge the umpire to appeal your case. Provide the umpire with a level of respect and integrity that when a decision has not been given immediately, this does not mean that player(s) have the right to charge the umpire to question or dispute the decision.

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm