

Coloured Vest Program

How to run the CVP at your association/club

Thank you for registering to take part in the Coloured Vest Program (CVP). It is designed to protect your beginner officials from harassment and abuse. By wearing a yellow vest when officiating, they are easily identifiable as in-training and likely to draw understanding from players and spectators, rather than harassment.

Step 1 Appoint a CVP coordinator

Appoint a CVP coordinator to oversee the program at your club/association. This person may be the same as your mentor (see step 3).

Step 2 Identify participants and timeframe

The CVP participants (beginner officials) and timeframes will vary from club to club.

You may choose to 'trial' the initiative for a particular group (e.g. 12 year olds only), at a particular venue (e.g. one of your fields), for a specific part of the season (e.g. four weeks) or maybe at an event (e.g. gala day).

Generally though, participants should be:

- 12 to 14 years of age (recommended target group for CVP)
- Beginners
- Willing to wear the coloured vest.

Step 3 Assign a mentor(s)

Mentors are an essential part of CVP.

Mentors should be experienced, well-trained officials who can provide guidance, advice and support to the beginner officials. They must be willing to be involved and have enough time to commit to CVP.

The mentors main role will be to discuss each game after it happens with the beginner official, focussing on any incidents of sport rage. It's a good idea for them to attend the beginner officials game for support, or arrange for someone else to (e.g. a parent).

The Information for Mentors sheet in this kit is a hand-out for CVP mentors.

Step 4 Brief participants

Selected CVP participants will need to be briefed on the program and how it works. The Information for Participants sheet in this kit is a hand-out for CVP participants.

A good way to brief people is through an information session, either specially arranged or as part of an existing training program or meeting. The CVP session could overview the CVP's aims and operations, as well as provide a chance to meet mentors.

Step 5 Promote

It's important to promote the CVP to your players, spectators and coaches. That way they'll be aware of why beginner officials are wearing the coloured vest. Some ideas for communicating include:

- Posters at your venue (supplied in kit)
- Information in your newsletter and/or website

On game/event day

- Posters/information at rego desks/match day offices
- Cards (supplied in kit) handed out
- Announcements on PA systems.

Step 6 Implement

Once everyone involved has a good understanding of the CVP, it's time to kick-off the program. Have beginner officials wear the coloured vest during the matches they officiate. You'll need to have a system in place for storing, allocating and returning the vests.

Step 7 Review

Towards the end of the season, it's a good idea to review the success of CVP. Two ways to do this include:

- Have all participants (beginner officials) complete a feedback form (provided in this kit)
- Review your incidents for the season to see if abuse towards officials declined.